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Xmas TV

all the season's greatest shows

FESTIVE TELLY GUIDE

WILLS



‘My trauma in 999 job, why children love Shakira and I like AC/DC’

SEE PAGES 8-11

EXCLUSIVE

MIDDLE-CLASS DRUGGIES FACE PASSPORT BAN

By DAVID WOODING

MIDDLE-class cocaine users' passports will be seized in a crackdown on drugs by Boris Johnson.

Full Story — Page 2



STAR CAUGHT IN BUST-UP

**TV CELEB
DANNY'S
DIVORCE
ROW**



EXCLUSIVE

By RACHEL DALE

I'M A Celebrity favourite Danny Miller was caught up in the bitter breakdown of his new fiancée's marriage. Emmerdale star Miller, 30, began dating Steph Jones in 2019. It led to DJ Daniel Babcock divorcing her. A source said: "They were separated, but Daniel was heartbroken when he found out about it."

Full Story — P4 and 5

Half Price
Clubcard Price



More Christmas offers on page 6.

Tesco large beef roasting joint with basting fat: Clubcard price £6/kg, regular price £12/kg, ends 26/12. Available in the majority of larger stores. Clubcard/app required. Delivery charges may apply.

TESCO
Every little helps

BOJO'S BLITZ ON DRUGS

KEEP GETTING HIGH
AND YOU WON'T FLYEXCLUSIVE by DAVID WOODING
Assistant Editor**PASSPORTS will be seized from middle-class cocaine users who fuel street crime under a tough new crack-down on drugs.**

Courts will be given power to impose football-style travel bans on posh users caught with Class A substances.

Ministers believe fines are a poor deterrent for well-off professionals who peddle coke at swanky clubs and dinner parties.

So they plan to hit them where it hurts – by stopping them from going on holiday or driving and hitting them with night-time curfews.

Boris Johnson will announce the measures as part of a ten-year blitz on drugs to be launched this week. He aims to target supply chains with action to stop drugs getting into prison and to break up County Lines gangs that exploit children.

But he is also determined to cut off demand with a tougher range of

PM: Passports to be seized as fines aren't big enough deterrent

penalties for lifestyle users. In an exclusive interview, the PM told The Sun on Sunday: "We need to look at new ways of penalising them – things that will actually interfere with their lives."

"So we will look at taking away their passports and driving licences. We're keeping nothing off the table."

Mr Johnson has put tackling drugs at the heart of his "levelling up" agenda as deprived areas are more likely to suffer crime caused by the trade. He has been spurred

on by evidence that half of all murders, robberies and burglaries are linked in some way to drugs.

The PM is determined to hit those who feed demand yet never witness the murders, robberies and gang wars that result from their habit.

He added: "There are people who feel they are not part of the problem. I don't want to stereotype it but I'm talking about lifestyle drug-takers."

"They think it's a victimless crime. Well it isn't." He added: "We have got to say to them, look, you are

helping to drive crime, you are helping to wreck lives and we can't as a society go on like this."

"What I want to see is a world in which we have penalties for lifestyle drug users that will seriously interfere with their enjoyment of their own lifestyles."

The new civil penalties will be modelled on sanctions already used against absent parents who fail to pay child maintenance and banning orders for football hooligans.

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Killed ... Sgt Ratana

Shooting of police doubles

EXCLUSIVE by
MICHAEL HAMILTON

THE number of police shot on duty has doubled in a year, stats show.

There were 23 officers injured by guns from April 2020 to March 2021, up from 12 in the previous 12 months.

It was also a rise from 17 in 2018-19. Six officers were shot while on duty in 2017-18 down from nine in 2016-2017.

The latest figures for England and Wales include Sergeant Matt Ratana, 54, who was shot dead in a custody suite in Croydon, South London, in September 2020.

The Home Office stats come in the week hundreds of officers, dressed in black, lined the route for his memorial.

Police Federation chair John Apter called for the courts to get tough on those who shoot officers.

He said: "Those responsible must spend time in prison. This unjustified violence needs to be dealt with robustly."

The Centre for Crime Prevention's David Spencer added: "These figures should act as a wake-up call to the Home Office."

DRUGS DON'T WORK: SEE PAGES 16 & 17

BORIS STILL
HOLDS LEAD
ON STARMER

BORIS Johnson is still backed by voters as the best choice for Prime Minister two years on from his thumping general election win.

He won the backing of 41 per cent in a head-to-head contest with Sir Keir Starmer, who scored 33 per cent.

But both are in net negative territory when it comes to their leadership – with the PM on minus 11 and in a worse situation than his rival on minus 3 in the Deltapoll survey.

Mr Johnson and Chancellor Rishi Sunak are seen as the safest hands on the economy, beating Labour counterparts Starmer and Rachel Reeves by 43 per cent to 34 per cent.

But more worryingly for the PM, Labour scored 38 per cent on voting intentions and are leading by a point.

The Conservatives' voter share is down three per cent on last month.

The public gave the PM a score of just 4.7 out of 10 for his performance since polling in December 2019.

One Tory MP warned: "Boris needs to shake up his Downing Street team and show who is in charge."

The findings come ahead of the North Shropshire by-election

Lagging ... Sir Keir



By RYAN SABEY

on December 16, where senior Tory figures are understood to be "jittery and nervous" despite previously holding a 23,000 majority.

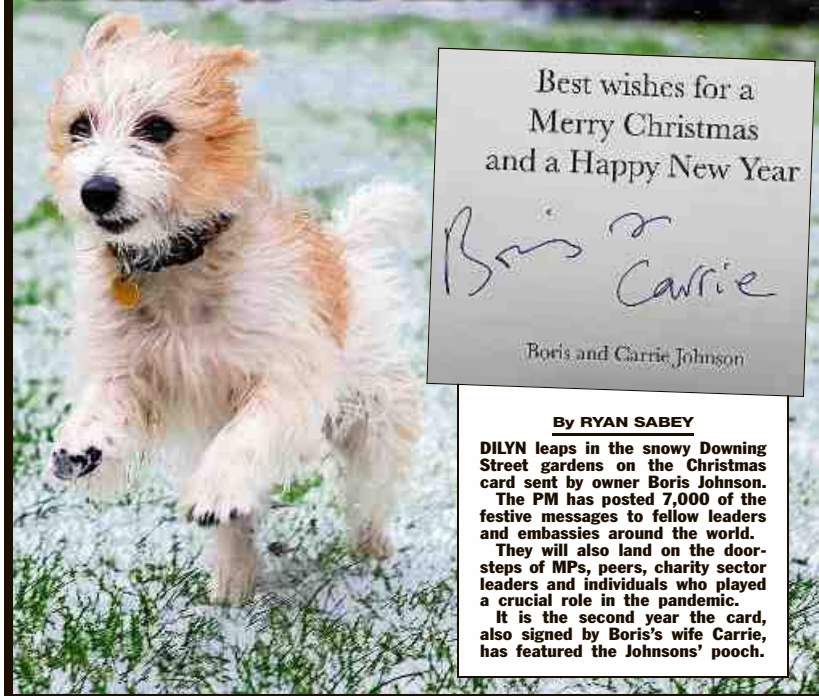
Lib Dem leader Ed Davey said: "Boris Johnson is facing a nightmare before Christmas in North Shropshire."

The vote follows the resignation of Tory MP Owen Paterson, who breached parliamentary lobbying rules.

Deltapoll interviewed 1,553 British adults online between December 2 and 4.

Raging Rayner – Page 20

DIL'S DELIGHT



By RYAN SABEY

DILYN leaps in the snowy Downing Street gardens on the Christmas card sent by owner Boris Johnson.

The PM has posted 7,000 of the festive messages to fellow leaders and embassies around the world.

They will also land on the doorsteps of MPs, peers, charity sector leaders and individuals who played a crucial role in the pandemic.

It is the second year the card, also signed by Boris's wife Carrie, has featured the Johnsons' pooch.

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VAT plea to Sunak

HOSPITALITY chiefs are piling pressure on Rishi Sunak to commit to a permanent cut in VAT.

Restaurants and bars want the reduced rate to stay due to rising costs for staff and supplies.

The Chancellor will be told today the cash can be used by the sector to invest in employees.

A fifth of restaurants had to shut early in the past three months due to supply chain and staffing issues, a poll shows.

Deliveroo's Carlo Molici said the VAT move would help to "ease the financial burden, protecting jobs".

IN BRITAIN'S
BEST-SELLING
SUNDAY PAPER

TONY PARSONS

We are
over-reacting to
the point
of madness
on Covid
PAGE 15

KAREN BRADY

Tragic
little Arthur's
killers should
never be let
out of jail
PAGE 27FREE
No! mags for
fashion & TV

NET NOW, CANDICE

NO wonder beach fan Candice Swanepoel catches the eye — her bikini is made from old fishing nets.

The South African super-model is doing her bit for the planet with an eco-friendly swimwear range for her brand Tropic of C. The 33-year-old's

By JULIA ATHERLEY

cozzies are made from 100 per cent recycled materials such as nets, fabric scraps and industrial plastics rescued from landfills and oceans, right. We reckon going green is always good to sea.



Picture: TROPIC OF C

FESTIVE SPLURGE

WAYNE'S LOLLY & THE IVY

£10k to put up Xmas lights

EXCLUSIVE by PAUL SIMS

WAYNE and Coleen Rooney have paid up to £10,000 for someone else to put up their Christmas decorations.

The couple, both 35, will spend their first Christmas in their £20million mansion after months of Covid-linked building delays.

The Cheshire home features separate lifts for the family and visitors, with the Rooneys dubbing it Mini Versailles after the French palace.

A source said: "The house is spectacular. It would probably take all year to decorate it themselves so they've hired specialists."

Some Premier League stars have opted for The Christmas Decorators

Decked out... Rooneys



Room with a view... mega-mansion

but the Rooneys brought in Florence Events Decor. Coleen yesterday shared a snap with the message: "Thank for doing my tree so last minute. Love it." The firm posted a video of the tree featuring a snowy owl.

Coleen also shared a pic of sons Kai, 12, Klay, eight, Kit, five, and Cass, three, posing with The Grinch.

writing: "Unbelievable as always, love them."

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£175 FOR TURKEY

TV chef Tom Kerridge is selling Christmas turkey boxes for £175 on his website.

The publican, 48, insists the birds taste better because of their long and happy lives. A source said: "You wouldn't want to burn it in the oven at that price."

The turkeys, reared at Copas free range farm in Maidenhead, Berks, come with gravy, bread sauce, stuffing, pigs in blankets and recipes for leftovers.



CHRISTMAS is just around the corner which means we can start looking forward to some seasonal telly viewing. To celebrate, we have scattered festive TV facts throughout today's newspaper. Look out for them as you read your favourite Sun on Sunday.



DEC had viewers laughing on Friday when she stumbled down steps at the start of the show. Ant insisted they go out the castle door and come back in again.

FORT SHORT



Breaches... Gwrych Castle

Break-in bid No3 at castle

EXCLUSIVE
by HANNAH HOPE

THE camp suffered a third attempted breach as guards grabbed two intruders.

The pair reached perimeter fencing behind the grounds of Gwrych Castle on Thursday night.

An ITV spokesman said: "Security escorted the two trespassers away." There were no arrests.

A source revealed: "It's become a bit of an issue on site that the castle is constantly under siege."

"There are a few locals who are placing bets as to who can get into the castle to take pics."

"But producers are aware and have laid on loads of burly security guards to stop anyone from breaking in – it would be frightening for the celebrities."

The first attempted break-in came during the first week of filming at the end of last month.

Last week two men in camouflage used Storm Arwen as cover to break into the castle and loiter around contestants' beds.

CAMPMATES wept as Louise Minchin, 53, won a phone call from hubby David, saying: "You're doing brilliantly, darling, we're so proud of what you're doing."

FORT SHORT

EXCLUSIVE: SPLIT WOE

STEPH AND DANNY

STEPH AND DANIEL

Danny was the final straw

STAR & STEPH 'HAVE AIRBRUSHED EX OUT'



By RACHEL DALE, SARAH RIDLEY and BEN LEO

DANNY Miller's relationship with a childhood sweetheart was the final straw for her marriage, pals said last night.

The I'm A Celebrity star, and a favourite to win, got together with Steph Jones in 2019 while she was wed to Daniel Babcock.

Devastated Daniel was "in pieces" when he heard about Miller and realised the marriage could not be saved.

In recent interviews Steph has gushed about Miller – her first kiss at primary school and dad to their six-week-old son – but never mentioned DJ Daniel and how they were together for ten years. They wed in July 2018 but divorced this summer.

Daniel's close friends say he was further angered when Miller and Steph told OK! magazine in May about his wedding proposal in St Lucia.

A pal told The Sun on Sunday: "There were difficulties in the marriage. They were on a separation but Daniel was optimistic about saving it."

"However, with Miller on the scene, it couldn't be salvaged and left him absolutely heartbroken and in pieces."

"It was her relationship with Miller which was the final straw. It led to a very painful divorce."

"They'd been together since they were 20 and married in 2018, less than a year before Daniel found out Steph was seeing Miller in May 2019. Family and friends know Daniel was upset and annoyed about the way he's been airbrushed from history by them."

Last year a story about Miller and Steph's relationship appeared in the Manchester Evening News. A comment under it said: "Weird. Last time I saw Steph she was still with my cousin."

Last weekend Steph, 30, told a newspaper how Miller had been her "rock" through a difficult year.

She said: "He was my first kiss in primary school, aged ten. We dated as teenagers and I was sad when he moved away. Two years ago, when we reconnected via his sister, we were both in a really bad place."

In May, Miller – Emmerdale's Aaron Dingle for 13 years – spoke to OK! magazine about his candlelit engagement to Steph in St Lucia.

Miller said: "When Adele's When We Were Young came on it felt very fitting given we met at primary school."

Steph added: "He was my first love. We've said we'll have the song for our first dance at the wedding." Again, Daniel was not mentioned.

A pal who attended Steph and Daniel's wedding said others there that day were in shock. They said: "There's a lot of anger and hurt. Neither Steph nor Miller has spoken of her time with Daniel. It's as if he's been wiped from memory."

"They had the church wedding and a massive party at Salford Quays. They seemed very much in love and vowed to spend the rest of their lives together in front of us."

"The next thing people see Steph in magazines as Miller's new girlfriend and how they're engaged. It's been very unfair on Daniel and has left him really struggling to deal with it."

On Friday's show, teary Miller, 30, was consoled by David Ginola when he complained of feeling homesick and missing Steph. Some bookies make Miller favourite to win. His agent declined to comment.

Daniel, 30, from Manchester, is now in another relationship.

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AS CELEBS GET SOAKED



Goggles on the box . . . David tries not to lose his footing in slippery cell



Soaked . . . Naughty Boy is splattered with gunk as he struggles in trial



Spooked . . . Arlene

Arlene's terror at 'ghosts of war kids'

EXCLUSIVE by
LAURA ARMSTRONG

SHAKEN Arlene Phillips says she has heard soldiers talking and children running through corridors.

Her claims have shocked crew given that the castle was used as a home to Jewish refugee children fleeing the Nazis in World War Two, insiders say.

A source said: "All the campmates have found the castle to be creepy at times."

"But Arlene seems to have been much more unnerved by unusual happenings, especially at night. "She has told the other celebrities about the soldiers and children."

"This was part of the reason she was considering leaving during the first week when she was staying in The Clink."

"The details may not have meant much for the campmates but many of the crew know the castle's history — and as a result have been quite freaked out by what she believes she heard."

Former Strictly judge Arlene, 78, has previously said she is not spiritual.

But Gwyrch Castle is said to be haunted by a lady in white, thought to be the Countess of Dun-donald, and her vengeful husband who rages that he failed to inherit the castle on her death in 1924.

Up to 300 Jewish children sent there in 1939 later found out their parents had been killed in Nazi concentration camps.

The source added: "Much of the castle's dark history still feels very present to those who've been inside."

"Even sceptics might find it odd that Arlene's claims chime with events here decades ago."

NAUGHTY Boy and athlete Kadeena Kox clashed as the DJ questioned how much she was cooking. "You don't need to get c***," he told her before walking off.

FORT SHORT

TRIO OUT OF LOCK

Trial and errors . . . David, Adam and Naughty Boy reflect on what went wrong in Cells of Hell

DAVID Ginola, Adam Woodyatt and Naughty Boy are drenched and deflated after a nightmare spell in the Cells of Hell.

The trio ended up with just four meals out of 11 for camp in last night's TV trial.

They were locked up in separate chambers and had to retrieve keys from lockers to earn the stars. But

By **ANDY ROBINSON**

the task was made very slippery as they were pelted with rotten fruit, offal and other stinky gunk.

Naughty Boy — whose cell was littered with keys — struggled to open the padlocks within the 11-minute time limit.

The music producer, 40 — who

had previously done well during a run of tasks — yelled: "This is definitely not my favourite trial."

Adam, 53, who plays Ian Beale in EastEnders, told David: "It's kind of pointless, he's got six keys on the floor."

After the trial, ex-Newcastle and Spurs ace David comforted Naughty Boy, telling him: "Out of five games

you can have a bad one." Adam agreed and cheekily recalled a duff Boxing Day display by the French winger against Coventry.

Campmates had a dinner of cod head — but Arlene Phillips, 78, and Adam had to endure rice and beans in The Clink after losing a coin-flip challenge. They would have got pizza had they won it.

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Recovery... Raheem

Sterling: I meditate to ease pressure

By JED NEILL

ENGLAND footballer Raheem Sterling says meditation has helped him cope with the pressure of big games.

The Manchester City striker claims it helps him "block the sound". Raheem, 26, added: "Meditation has improved my thinking but also my body conditioning."

"The more I do it, the better I feel. At the end of last season, my legs could sometimes feel a bit 'aggy' but meditation helped my recovery."

Raheem, who also set up a social mobility foundation at his old school, added: "I went through a difficult period where I couldn't stop a negative feeling taking over. But I had to overcome it."

He spoke as he became an ambassador for mental health app Headspace.

Hamilton ad denial

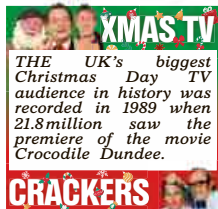
SIR Lewis Hamilton says his Mercedes F1 team's deal with an insulation firm linked to Grenfell Tower was "news to me".

Kingspan's logo appeared on his car at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix qualifying yesterday.

Sir Lewis said last night: "I had nothing to do with the team signing any of the sponsors. It was news to me."

Kingspan says some of its insulation was used on the tower's cladding without its knowledge.

A fire at the tower in 2017 killed 72.



Get a jab for affair

LOVE rats would dump their bit on the side if they have not been vaccinated, a poll found.

Seven in ten said they would end an affair.

But 94 per cent of cheats are already double-jabbed, the IllicitEncounters.com poll shows.

And 84 per cent got the vaccine so they could continue a fling safely.

The website said: "Safe sex in 2021 means no jab no nookie."

"Now with booster jabs, the rate of people having affairs is likely to peak again before Christmas."



DUA WANT A BREAK?

EXCLUSIVE by HANNAH HOPE

POP star Dua Lipa's two-year relationship with boyfriend Anwar Hadid is in crisis as career pressure keeps them apart.

The Brit singer, 26, and the model, 22, have not been seen together for almost six weeks and have discussed "putting the brakes on".

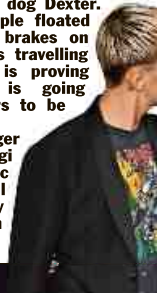
Dua has been recording her album in London and in Los Angeles, while Anwar has been alone in New York with their dog Dexter.

An insider said: "The couple floated the idea about putting the brakes on their romance last month as travelling so much and being apart is proving tough. Their relationship is going through a crisis and appears to be on the rocks."

Anwar, 22, the younger brother of supermodels Gigi and Bella, said in a cryptic Instagram post he is grateful for loved ones "guiding my steps, allowing me to learn to be happy with myself".



Kiss & break up... Dua & Anwar



EXCLUSIVE £45M SI IS CASH COWELL Huge TV company windfall

By BEN LEO

SIMON Cowell has pocketed an astonishing £45.3million windfall — one of the biggest in celebrity history.

Accounts for The X Factor mogul's company Syco Holdings for the 12 months to March this year reveal that he received £45,358,391.

The payout to the king of entertainment is more than double the £21.4million singer Ed Sheeran paid himself for 2020.

And it is more than three times the £14.5million the Beckhams shared in 2019.

A source said: "Simon may not have been on screen but his busy empire globally goes from strength to strength."

"It is clear from these figures that his influence in the entertainment industry is still vast."

The cash swells the personal wealth of Cowell, 62, to more than £400million.

His TV ventures, also including the global Got Talent brand, have flourished despite the Covid lockdowns.

With people ordered to stay indoors, Syco has still been landing big contracts to produce TV programmes.

It made almost £65million in its last financial year and £40million in the bank left over from the previous period.



The dividend for the dad of one comes five months after he split his business relationship with Sony Music Entertainment. Cowell took sole control of the TV interests while Sony Music held on to Syco's artists and music back-catalogue.

He is now keen to work with streaming giant Netflix, it has been reported.

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Help... Prince and crew with a casualty



WILLIAM



Flier... Wills at 'copter controls



Caring... team with injured man

By **MATT WILKINSON**
Royal Correspondent

PRINCE William has revealed the emotional crisis he suffered while serving as an air ambulance pilot — and said it left him feeling “like the whole world was dying”.

The Duke of Cambridge, 39, was close to tears as he confessed the trauma of the job's pressures hit home a few weeks after he flew to help a boy at “death's door”, and admitted: “It even makes me quite emotional now.”

Father-of-three William revealed that he was “lucky enough” to find someone in the Air Ambulance Service with whom he could talk through his emotions.

And he outlined why he is campaigning for 999 heroes to get better mental health support — saying there is no “stigma or taboo” in seeking assistance.

The Prince choked up during a candid Apple Fitness+ podcast on the impact of dealing with 999 emergencies.

He worked a night shift for East Anglia Air Ambulance from 2015 and 2017, returning home each night to be with wife Kate, 39, and their children George, now eight, and Charlotte, now six. Louis, three, arrived a year after he left.

Recalling his time, he said: “Seeing patients and families ripped apart on almost a daily basis, that routine, you just get into a habit of head down and get on with it.”

“I went to this one job. And it wasn't very far. The maximum. We only flew about 15 minutes. And that was the great thing... you know, you get the aircraft out as quick as you can.”

“I still remember the crew who were on, great mates of mine. We had a paramedic and a doctor on and another pilot flying with me.”

“And the call we get is very brief, not very detailed. So we were kind of expecting a sort of minor injury case.”

“Immediately it became clear this young person was in serious difficulty, sadly been hit by a car.”

“And of course there's some things in life you don't really want to see. And all we cared about at the time was fixing this boy.”

“And the parents are very hysterical... screaming, wailing, not knowing what to do, you know, and in, in real agony themselves. And that lives with you.”

“But our team got to work, and they stabilised the boy, and then it was a case of getting him out of there and into hospital.”

“It all happened very fast. And we had the patient there in under an hour. It gives the patient the best chance of survival.”

Wills said he went home that night “pretty upset”.

He said: “I wasn't in tears, but inside, I felt something had changed. I felt a sort of, a real tension inside of me.”

“And then, the next day, going back in again to work, you know,

different crew. On to the next job. And that's the thing, you're not always all together. So then you can't spend a day processing it.”

“And so, you sort of have a reluctance to talk about it because you don't want to hold each other up. You, you don't want to, you know, burden other people.”

“You also don't want to think, ‘Oh, is it just me? Am I the only one who's really affected by that?’”

“It really hit me weeks later. It was like someone had put a key in a lock and opened it without me giving permission to do that. I felt

like the whole world was dying. It's an extraordinary feeling. You just feel everyone's in pain, everyone's suffering. And that's not me. I've never felt that before.”

“My personal life and everything was absolutely fine. I was happy at home and work, but I kept looking at myself, going, ‘Why am I feeling like this? Why do I feel so sad?’”

“And I started to realise that, actually, you're taking home people's trauma, people's sadness, and it's affecting you.”

“But I can't explain why I had that realisation what was going on

because a lot of people don't have that realisation. Until you've been through it, it's hard to understand.”

Emotional William struggled to keep his composure as he described meeting the family of the rescued car crash lad.

He said: “That definitely helped because... it even makes me quite emotional now. When they come in and say, ‘Thank you’, and, ‘Here he is. He's okay.’ It's... you know, it still even affects me now.”

“But I think, as a human being, when you see someone in such dire circumstances, basically at

death's door, you can't help but not be affected by that.”

William was speaking on an Apple Fitness+ podcast called Time to Walk released tomorrow.

It was recorded during a countryside stroll around the royals' Sandringham Estate, in Norfolk.

During the chat, the prince said that there were times when he helped colleagues as they gave CPR to casualties.

Praising the people he worked with, he said: “They're all so selfless, and they're such dedicated people. These frontline workers

Trauma hit me, I felt like whole world was dying...



PRINCE REVEALS THE AGONY OF EMOTIONAL CRISIS IN 999 JOB



Ready for action
... on tarmac
at Cambridge

Poles apart from Harry



BY INGRID SEWARD
Royal biographer

HARRY doesn't have the monopoly in discussing mental health.

He believes it is never his fault. The media or his family have made him the way he is.

William is the opposite. He refuses to lay the blame on anyone.

Diana's pain at her lowest ebb left a lot of responsibility on young William's shoulders.

He pushed tissues under the bathroom door when he heard her crying, and protected Harry from the worst of his parents' issues.

To William, therapy is not about blame, it is about how to deal with the pain.

William has worked it out. Harry is just angry.

We should all be open



BY MATT WILKINSON
Royal correspondent

I'VE heard William describe the importance of mental health many times in 18 months.

But I've never heard him so emotional as he is in this recording — discussing his time with the air ambulance.

It is also wonderful to hear him discuss home life so affectionately.

William's approach could not be more different from Harry's documentary with Apple earlier this year in which he attacked his family and upbringing.

It is clear mental health support is not only an issue William wants to talk about — he wants us to talk about it, too.

who see death, bereavement, tragedy, and trauma on a daily basis." Last month he launched The Blue Light Together initiative where the UK's emergency services agreed to make responders' mental health a top priority.

The prince also went on to say that there was, but need not be, a "deep-rooted fear" associated with tackling mental health issues.

He said: "There are a number of ways that you can be affected by your circumstances, your environment, your upbringing. We all need to go through a process of

understanding why rather than just give in to those feelings and say, 'Listen, it's me. I'm the problem'. It's not. It really isn't you."

"And you're not alone, and it's okay. It's about what you do next. It's about having that boldness and that openness and that strength to go. It's going to be a long journey. It's not going to be easy, but I'm going to get there."

William, who affectionately refers to brother Harry, 36, three times in the podcast, also revealed that he gained his childhood love of helicopters after sitting on the

front seat as Prince Charles flew a Westland Wessex chopper.

A photograph taken from one trip was kept on William's bedroom wall as a child.

He said: "I kept looking at it, and it kept calling to me like it was saying, 'Come on, what's the next step?'"

"And the RAF came along, and I went and did search and rescue with them. The moment I started the helicopter training, I realised that it was better than anything."

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The Sun on Sunday Says — Page 16



Memory lane
... Wills outside
church where he'd
walk with grandad

IT'S GOOD TO WALK.. ASK PHILIP

By MATT WILKINSON

PRINCE Philip, below, would stride ahead on Christmas walks at Sandringham. William recalls fondly.

Passing the estate's St Mary Magdalene Church, Wills says: "I have strong memories of walking down here. My grandfather (Philip) used to walk so fast that there'd be huge gaps between us. There'd be us at the back with little legs trying to keep up."

"Over time, you start to feel quite attached to those moments and those memories before."

Wills also recalls how he, Harry and their cousins would have a laugh during annual services.

He adds: "On Christmas Day, it's fun to have a giggle and enjoy yourself."

The Time To Walk episode featuring William can be streamed free on Apple Music 1 from tomorrow.

Harry scored megabucks deals with the likes of Apple TV, Spotify and Netflix but in his mental health documentary laid into his family and upbringing.

Wills negotiated with Apple to donate tens of thousands to three charities — UK's Shout, Crisis Text Line in the US and Lifeline in Australia.





WILLIAM



Chat... new Apple Fitness+ podcast



KARAOKE KING

Wills, Taylor Swift and Jon Bon Jovi sing Livin' On A Prayer in 2013, and right, AC/DC rock



By MATT WILKINSON

PRINCE William has revealed the unlikely song that revs him up for the week — AC/DC's head-banging anthem *Thunderstruck*.

Wills also tells how his three children enjoy "dancing, messing around and singing", squabble over what music to play but love Colombian singer Shakira.

And he recalls the moment he "felt like a puppy" with superstars Taylor Swift and Jon Bon Jovi.

Speaking in new Apple Fitness+ podcast *Time to Walk*, the duke says of Aussie rockers AC/DC's 1990 hit *Thunderstruck*: "There's nothing better on a Monday morning, when you're bleary-eyed after the weekend and trying to get back into the grind of the week."

"It wakes you up, puts you in the best mood possible, and you feel like you can take on anything and anyone."

"I'd imagine you're going to walk quite fast listening to it, maybe with a skip in your step, with the head-banging."

"It's a difficult song not to dance to or to nod along to."

On the podcast's countryside stroll, Wills tells how son Louis, three, is "obsessed" with tractors.

And he describes a "clamour for music" at Anmer Hall, Norfolk, where he and Kate raise George, eight, Charlotte, six, and Louis.

He adds: "One of the songs that the children are loving at the moment is Shakira's *Waka Waka*."

"There's a lot of hip movements going on, a lot of dressing up."

"Charlotte, particularly, is running around the kitchen in her dresses and ballet stuff."

"She goes completely crazy with Louis following her around trying to do the same. It's a really happy

moment where the children just enjoy dancing, messing around, and singing."

Amused Wills also describes the "massive fight" between Charlotte and George as to what song gets played in the morning.

He said: "I have to prioritise so George gets his go, then Charlotte gets her go. Such is the clamour for the music."

Meanwhile, fun-loving William confessed he felt like a puppy after Taylor Swift convinced him to perform karaoke with her and Jon Bon Jovi at a charity gala.

He said he walked on stage in November 2013 "in a trance" before realising he did not know the

words to the Bon Jovi hit *Livin' On A Prayer*.

But he carried on belting out the song at a Kensington Palace fundraiser for homeless charity Centrepont, saying he thought: "Sod it. I can't be the doofus."

Footage of the encounter still exists online and Wills tells the podcast: "It's okay to not take yourself too seriously and have those moments where you let go and you just go, 'Do you know what? I'm okay with this'."

"So, yeah, go on and have a laugh. And don't go and watch the video of me singing. Or do go and watch it, but just laugh to yourself about how I was feeling." Footage

shows Jon Bon Jovi strumming his guitar saying: "Just maybe the karaoke kid could come up and sing a couple of words."

To rapturous applause Wills dressed in black tie then appears on stage with Taylor.

Taking up the tale, the duke says: "I can't believe I'm actually telling this story."

I went to a charity fundraising gala for Centrepont, which is a young homeless charity that I am very fond of and have supported for many years.

"It's an annual fundraiser, and I turn up, and Jon Bon Jovi and Taylor Swift are at the event, which nearly knocked me off my

feet as well. I went inside, met everybody, a lot of handshaking to do those nights, a lot of chatting."

"I try and be charming and interactive."

"Occasionally, you're not having a good day, and it's a little harder to come by."

"When I sat down to watch Jon Bon Jovi do his performance, I thought, 'That's it. My job is done. I'll get a dinner in a minute, and I might be able to have a chat to some people, and, you know, I'm off-duty a little bit now.'"

"Little did I think what was going to happen next. I'm sat next to Taylor Swift. She's on my left."

"And after Jon does his first

HRH

George & Charlotte like Shakira

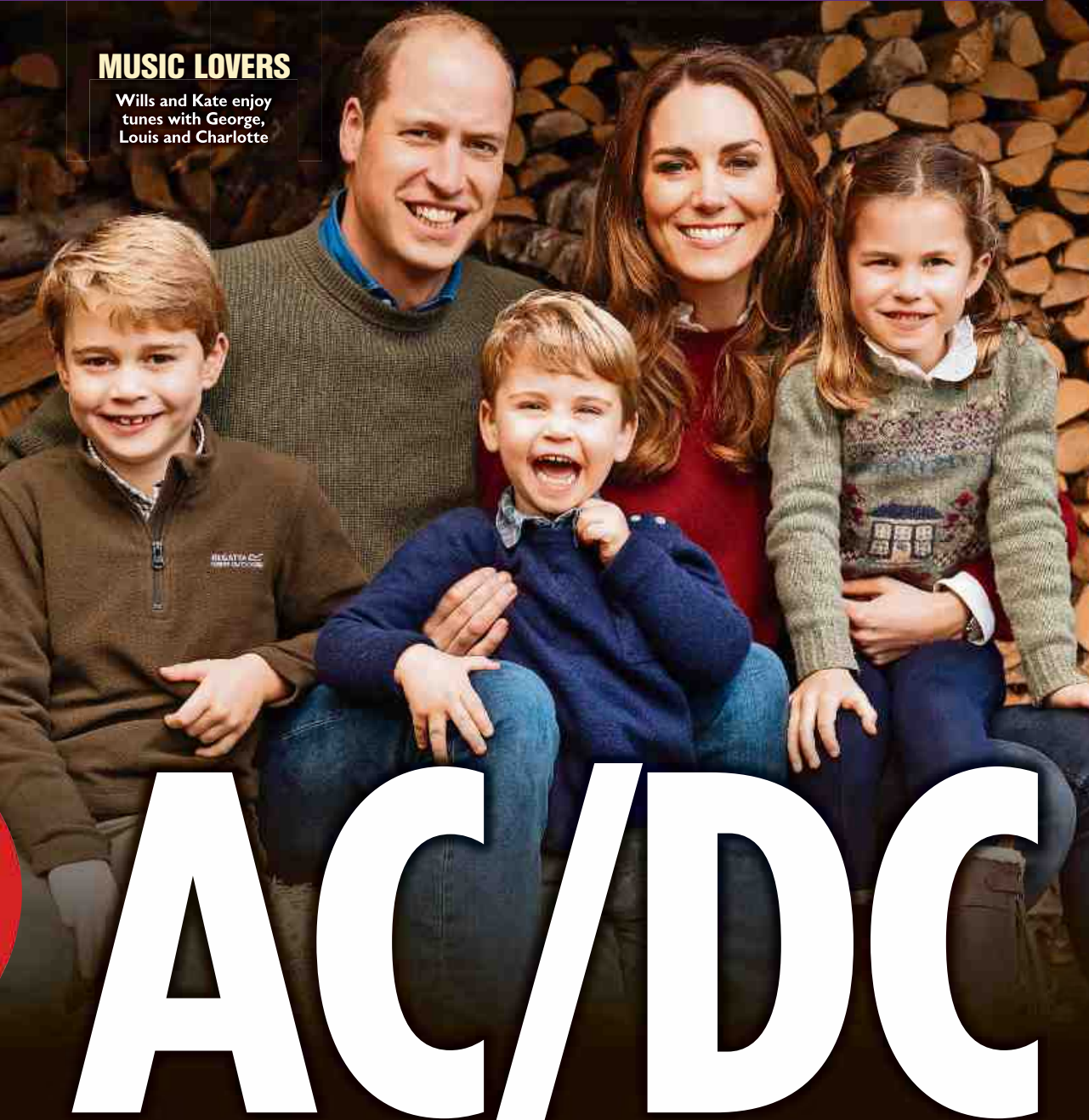


IN HIS MOST PERSONAL CHAT, PRINCE ON FAMILY MUSIC AND TAYLOR SWIFT



MUSIC LOVERS

Wills and Kate enjoy tunes with George, Louis and Charlotte



AC/DC

● I like head-banging heavy metal

song, there's a pause, and Taylor turns to me.

"She puts her hand on my arm, looks me in the eye, and says, 'Come on, William. Let's go and sing.'"

"To this day, I still do not know what came over me.

"Honestly, even now I'm cringing at what happened next, and I don't understand why I gave in.

"But, frankly, if Taylor Swift looks you in the eye, touches your arm, and says, 'Come with me...'

"So I got up like a puppy and went, 'Yeah, okay, that seems like a great idea. I'll follow you.'

"I walked up on stage in a trance, and then sort of halfway

through Livin' On A Prayer I wake up.

"And I'm thinking to myself, 'Am I standing on the stage singing Livin' On A Prayer when I don't even know the words?'"

In the footage, the trio's impromptu performance sends the crowd – which included stars Colin Firth, Tinie Tempah and Benedict Cumberbatch – wild as Wills looks nervous but gives it his best effort.

He became the charity's patron earlier that year following on from work carried out by his mother Princess Diana.

He adds in the podcast: "The Centrepoint young guys and girls

were there all loving it and cheering away.

"So I thought, 'Well, if they're enjoying it, then the night is for them. So sod it. I can't be the doofus who's going to ruin it for everyone.'

"And so I desperately try and remember some of the words and sing as hard as I can.

"Beneath my black tie, there was a lot of sweating going on.

"I felt like a swan, where I was trying to keep myself composed on the outside, but inside, the little legs are paddling fast.

"Now, a lot of people might think that I'm comfortable on stage. When I do speeches and

things like that, I've done so many now, they're not a problem. But I've not done singing."

Referring to his mental health, William added: "At times, when you're taken out of your comfort zone, you've got to roll with it.

"And I think we've got to the stage in this life where we do micromanage ourselves.

"We do worry about: How do we look on social media? Who said what about me? What am I wearing?"

"There are so many pressures, but I think making a fool of yourself and not taking yourself too seriously is okay."

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School run . . Diana with young princes

MUM DI HAD US SINGING TO TINA

By MATT WILKINSON

PRINCESS Diana used to sing along with William and Harry to Tina Turner as she drove them to boarding school.

Prince William described one of his fondest childhood memories — revealing even their royal protection police officer was made to join in.

And he still "secretly enjoys" Tina's hit The Best as it reminds him of a touching family moment with his younger brother and late mother.

On his Apple Fitness+ podcast, he said: "When I listen to it now, it takes me back to those car rides and brings back lots of memories of my mother.

"When Harry and I were at boarding school, my mother used to play all sorts of songs to kind of while away the anxiety of going back.

"One of the songs I massively remember and has stuck with me all this time, and I still, to this day, quite enjoy secretly, is Tina Turner's The Best — because sitting in the back seat, singing away, it felt like a real family moment.

"And my mother, she'd be driving along, singing at the top of her voice. We'd even get the policeman in the car, he'd be occasionally singing along, as well."

The fun would continue right up to the school gates where the boys were dropped off to spend days and nights away from their family.

Wills added: "And, that's when reality sunk in, that you really were going back to school because before that, you're lost in songs."



Cases fall by 8,000

COVID CRISIS 2

COVID infections fell by nearly 8,000 yesterday despite Omicron.

There were 42,848 cases — 7,736 fewer than the day before. And 127 people died, down 15 from Friday. It was the lowest Saturday figure since October 2, when 121 deaths were recorded.

Health officials in South Africa, where Omicron was first found, said the variant should prompt vigilance in kids.

But they insisted the symptoms are only mild.

ANGER AS TESTS FOR UK ARRIVALS RETURN



By RYAN SABEY

TRAVEL bosses were furious last night at the return of pre-departure Covid tests for those heading to Britain.

The move was signed off by ministers yesterday as

Meeting . . . Mr Shapps

COVID CRISIS 1

part of the battle against the Omicron variant.

The Government decided those aged 12 or over will need a negative PCR or lateral flow test in the 48 hours before arriving.

It is on top of a test within 48 hours of getting home.

It means families may have to pay an extra £250 to come here. The pre-departure test, from

4am Tuesday, has enraged the ailing industry. Travel consultant Paul Charles said: "Yet again, the travel sector is going to suffer with these measures on top of the fact many people will abandon, cancel or re-book what they have booked for the next few weeks."

Airlines UK boss Tim Alderslade said: "It's premature to hit millions of passengers and industry before we see full data."

Transport Secretary Grant Shapps and Health Secretary

Sajid Javid led a Covid meeting after Omicron cases were found in 40 countries. They acted after hearing the gap between infection and being infectious may be shorter than with Delta, meaning cases can be caught sooner.

The decision will be reviewed on December 20, two days after other measures, like face masks. New arrivals must isolate until the 48-hour test is negative.

Meanwhile, Nigeria has been added to the red-list countries.

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lidl.co.uk/toys



Bug . . one of the hippos

Covid in 2 hippos at a zoo

COVID CRISIS 3

By JED NEILL

TWO hippos have tested positive for Covid in what could be the first reported cases in the species, zoo staff said.

Hermien, 41, and Imani, 14, have no symptoms apart from a runny nose. But staff at Antwerp Zoo in Belgium said the pair had been quarantined as a precaution.

Its vet Francis Ver-cammen said: "To my knowledge, this is the first time in this species. "Worldwide this virus has been reported mainly in great apes and felines."

The zoo is investigating how the hippos caught the virus.

Bosses said none of the zookeepers had recently tested positive for Covid or shown symptoms.

Other zoo animals reported to have caught Covid include big cats, otters and hyenas.

Vax No1: Get jabs

COVID CRISIS 4

THE world's first approved vaccine recipient urged the public to get their jab or booster.

Margaret Keenan, 91, said: "It's saving their lives, their families lives, and helping the NHS."

"So, what more can I say? Go and have it done, you will feel much better for it."

"It is going to help you, and help others."

She received the Pfizer jab last December in Coventry. Speaking on the eve of the vaccine's first anniversary, she added: "I felt honoured to have helped to get the ball rolling."

"Getting the vaccine gave me more confidence to go out to places."



GIVE IT A MISS

COVID CRISIS 5

By JULIA ATHERLEY

MISS Universe contestants visit the Dead Sea after being allowed into Israel despite a Covid travel ban for foreigners. They were given waivers ahead of next Sunday's pageant in Eilat. But Miss France, Clémence Botino, is quarantining in a hotel after testing positive on arrival.



STAR'S STRICTLY TRIBUTE



Freed ... Guede

Meredith killer in claim for asylum

EXCLUSIVE
by NICK PISA

THE killer of British student Meredith Kercher has applied for asylum as he again insisted justice had not been done.

Rudy Guede, 34, is still officially classed as an illegal immigrant.

He applied for the right to remain in Italy as he could be kicked out as a foreigner who was jailed for more than two years.

Last week, he was freed three years early from a 16-year sentence for the 2007 murder and sexual assault of Leeds university student Meredith, 21.

Guede, originally from Ivory Coast, said: "If the Kercher family think they have got justice, I want to tell them they haven't. "Yes, I was there but I didn't kill Meredith."

He insists he was in the toilet when she was killed. He said he heard screams and rushed out to find her dying next to a man and woman.



Pup scorer ... Foden

Phil's the top dog in names for pets

EXCLUSIVE
by ISAAC CROWSON

THOUSANDS of owners are naming their dogs after England's Euros stars - with Phil Foden leading the pack.

There was a 1,000 per cent increase in pooches called Phil, after the Man City midfielder, 21, who dyed his hair blond for the tournament in July.

Dogs named after reserve 'keeper Aaron Ramsdale, 23, were up 900 per cent and those named after final goal-scorer Luke Shaw, 26, rose by 550 per cent.

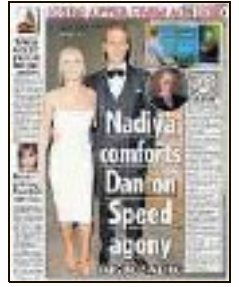
Names inspired by striker Harry Kane, 28, scored a 100 per cent rise while Jack Grealish pups were 93 per cent up.

There was an overall increase of 80 per cent in dogs with players' names compared with 2020, according to rover.com.

The site's Jordanna Ber said: "If England win next year's World Cup you won't hear a non-player name at puppy class."

Dan: Nad puts a big smile on my face

In step ... Dan and Nadiya tango last night



Heartache ... yesterday's Sun

By HANNAH HOPE

STRICTLY star Dan Walker paid tribute to dance partner Nadiya Bychkova yesterday, saying: "She puts a big smile on my face."

The BBC Breakfast presenter spoke after she consoled him when he broke down on the tenth anniversary of the death of his pal Gary Speed.

The Sun told yesterday how Dan, 44, had just watched a rerun of a Football Focus interview he did with former Wales manager Gary the day before he killed himself.

He was seen sobbing on 32-year-old Nadiya's shoulder as they hugged backstage.

Ahead of their tango on last night's show, he said: "We enjoy each other's company. She makes me laugh and I think she'd say she's learned a lot from me and I've learned a lot from her."

"I think our attitude is very similar. I know I'm not the best dancer in the world but what she's taught me is that I can actually dance and just go out there and have the best possible time with a big smile on my face."

The dad of three admitted he did not even dance at his wedding to university sweetheart Sarah.

He said: "I do distraction tactics, I do messing around on the sides."

"We've been married 20-odd years now and it has always been our plan to have a party for our 25th anniversary."

"I would love for us to do a dance together and make up for my lack of wedding-day dancing."

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Hopeful ... Dan before the show

COVID RULE TIGHTENED



STRICTLY couples have been ordered to tighten their Covid bubbles if they want to make the show's final.

Pairs were told by producers ahead of last night's quarter-final that they would

Faves ... Rose and Giovanni

By HANNAH HOPE

no longer be allowed a bye week if they fall ill. A positive test means they will be out of the show for good.

It comes as fears mount that the new Omicron variant will derail the BBC1 show.

Dancers still in with a chance of winning the coveted glitterball trophy have swerved showbiz parties.

A TV insider said: "Everyone was social distancing before. Now they're being extra careful."

EastEnders actress Rose

Ayling-Ellis, 27, and professional partner Giovanni Pernice, 31, are the bookies' favourites to win the show.

But Giovanni took Dan in Chelsea star Verity Bowditch, 25, on several dates last month, The Sun on Sunday revealed last week.



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Tony Parsons

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TWEETS... Rajan

BIAS IS A BBC BONUS

AMOL RAJAN, who presented the BBC documentary *The Princes And The Press*, is revealed to have a fine collection of rabid republican rants in his closet.

Amol once called Prince Philip a "racist buffoon", the Diamond Jubilee a "celebration of mediocrity" and Prince Charles "scientifically illiterate".

I spent the Silver Jubilee on a boat trip with the Sex Pistols sporting a "God Save The Queen" T-shirt from punk shop Sex, and even I gasped with shock.

But none of Rajan's anti-royalist rants will hamper his career at the BBC. The BBC does not really do the impartiality thing any more.

I might have a fiver on bling-laden Amol – the man has more jewellery than Ratners – becoming the next Director-General.

THE cost of living soaring. Migrants dying in the English Channel.

The world still gripped by the worst health emergency in 100 years. And Labour's Keir Starmer uses Prime Minister's Questions to berate Boris about a Christmas party for Downing Street staff – a year ago.

The planet is on fire. And Starmer wants to talk about stale sausage rolls.

THANKS ALWAYS, NORWAY

EVERY year since 1947, Trafalgar Square has been adorned by a giant Christmas tree given to the British people by the king of Norway.

It is his way of saying thank you for the part our country played in restoring freedom to the Nazi-occupied country.

Between you and me, this year's tree is not quite as magnificent as the trees of the past.

"Where's the rest of it?" cried one plaintive Londoner.

But it's the thought that counts.

And isn't it heart-warming that one nation in Europe never forgets where their liberty comes from?

In our war against Covid, jabs are the D-Day Landings

IF we can't keep calm and carry on when a new variant of coronavirus emerges, then – to paraphrase Chas and Dave – Covid loopy nuts are we.

Because the jabs work. Getting vaccinated usually prevents you from becoming seriously sick, keeps you out of hospital and stops catching Covid becoming a death sentence.

And the UK has one of the highest vaccination rates in the world.

Even as Covid cases hit a five-month high, deaths and hospital numbers here continue to fall. Even as the Omicron variant has gloomy Government ministers telling us to do our drunken Christmas party snogging on Zoom, we can see the shining light of freedom ahead.

All thanks to our world-beating vaccination programme. We should be feeling a warm glow of national pride, rather than vowing to work from home until 2022.

We should be rejoicing rather than cancelling Christmas parties, travel plans

and nativity plays. In Europe, only Malta and Iceland with their itty-bitsy populations have higher vaccination rates than the UK.

Panicky European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is yakking about making jabs compulsory, although she can't explain how that would work in free countries. Because it wouldn't.

But the British have embraced vaccination as our path to freedom. Nearly 50million of us are double-jabbed. Almost 19million have had the booster jab – the vaccination that provides 93 per cent protection against serious disease.

Overwhelmingly, it is the unvaccinated who are at higher risk of dying now.

It's true we do not yet know everything about the Omicron strain of Covid.

But early indications suggest that all the doom-mongering is premature.

"Nothing I have seen about this new variant warrants the extreme action the UK Government has taken in response to it," writes Dr Angelique Coetzee, the South African doctor who alerted the world to the Omicron variant.

Dr Coetzee points

out that nobody in South Africa is known to have been seriously ill with Omicron, although their R-rate has lurched from 1 to 3.5 in a matter of weeks.

Yet the UK, US and EU have imposed draconian rules on extended quarantines, mask-wearing and the irresponsibility of snogging under the mistletoe.

"In South Africa, we have retained a sense of perspective," says Dr Coetzee. "We're waiting to see what the variant actually means."

Are we going to have a collective panic attack every time a new variant of Covid emerges? Definitely! Because there are so many vested interests in this never-ending state of emergency.

Bossy politicians who have developed an addiction to levels of social control that would have been unthinkable two years ago. Bungling organisations, from your local council to your bank, use Covid as a cover for appalling customer service.

Civil servants are using the virus as an excuse to skive from home for ever.

Left-wing teaching unions and devolved governments use Covid as a big stick to beat Boris. And this Tory Government can blame historic levels of taxation on Covid.

Oh, what a lovely virus!

The horrible, unspoken truth is that a lot of people are absolutely loving it. The power-mad, the lazy, the incompetent. And if they have their way, then every time the virus mutates – as it surely will – schools will be shut, offices abandoned, healthy businesses shuttered, planes grounded, operations cancelled, cancer patients told to fend for themselves and youngsters with their hormones raging advised to do their courting on Zoom.

Sucking the joy out of life

And they are sucking the joy out of what it means to be alive. They are condemning a generation of students to a stunted, tenth-rate education. They are destroying healthy businesses and condemning hard-working grafters to the dole queue.

And this country is overreacting to the point of madness. Because our vaccination roll-out has already put the worst of this pandemic in the UK's rear-view mirror.

Yet Mason Wilby, age four, was isolated from other children at Wigton Infant School because he had a minor cough and a snotty nose – not unknown in four-year-old boys, as I recall.

Mason's mum Chloe says that when she went to collect Mason, he was being isolated in an outdoor shed.

She later had to call 999 because Mason looked like he had hypothermia.

Is isolating a four-year-old boy with a runny nose in a freezing shed **REALLY** what we mean by "living with Covid"?

We need to get a grip. We need to stop the covert Covid-lovers from controlling us. Whatever Omicron, Delta and all other variants of Covid chuck at us, the British are well placed to face it.

Cancelling Christmas parties, imposing harsh travel rules and isolating a four-year-old kid because he has a runny nose is not living with Covid. It is surrendering to Covid. Our booster programme is being massively ramped up, with all over-18s to be offered that life-saving, game-changing third jab by the end of next month.

Should we be wary of new variants? Yes, but we should also stop acting as if mass vaccination has never happened.

History will record that in the war against Covid-19, vaccinations were our generation's Normandy landings. It is time to stop waving the white flag of surrender. And to start living again.



LIGHTING UP... Beatles

BACK TO THE FAGS 4

IF you grew up in the Sixties, you were surrounded by two things – cigarette smoke and the music of The Beatles.

So Peter Jackson's epic documentary on the last days of the group comes with a health warning.

Each episode of *Get Back* starts with a caution that what we are about to see contains, "explicit language, mature themes and smoking".

There is actually not much profanity or mature themes in *Get Back*.

There is no sex, no drugs – just plenty of rock and roll.

And more smoking than I have witnessed for 50 years.

In 1969, when The Beatles were recording *Let It Be*, smoking in the UK was approaching its all-time 1970 peak. An astonishing 35 per cent of deaths in men were attributable to smoking.

And though there has been some guffawing about *Get Back*'s smoking warnings, there is no denying the fag ash Fab Four make cigarettes look cooler than they have been for a long time.

One impressionable old music fan confessed to me that after watching *Get Back*, he feels like starting smoking again.

But while the music is still great, the fags still kill.

Just say no, grandad.



HIT... Nadiya and Dan

ONE TO WATCH

SOME say that Dan Walker dances like an ironing board in a bow tie.

Some say that Dan should not be in the quarter-finals of *Strictly Come Dancing*.

But I don't know how anyone can call Dan boring.

The *Strictly* fan who is tired of watching Dan's pro partner Nadiya Bychkova is tired of life.



On side of West

ACCORDING to a new poll, *Grease* is the best film musical ever.

If you think *Grease* is the best musical ever, then you have never seen *West Side Story*.

I bow to no man in my admiration of *Born To Hand Jive* and *Beauty School Drop-Out*.

But *West Side Story* is a cinematic masterpiece, the pinnacle of Hollywood musicals. And Steven Spielberg's 2021 remake – out next week – is reportedly even better.

I FEEL PRETTY GOOD...
new *West Side Story* film

THE Sun

ON SUNDAY

SAYS 05/12/21

A BLITZ on illegal drugs is long overdue.

New stats show this vile trade is linked to half of all burglaries and violent robberies.

Most of this crime is driven by just 300,000 heroin and crack cocaine users whose lives have been blighted by their addiction.

Drugs trafficking wrecks communities up and down the country, from inner cities to vast rural areas. Levelling up Britain can't begin without tackling it.

Yet as Boris Johnson says in our interview today: "It's been a long time since the Government said drugs are bad and dangerous. It's time we did something about it."

The PM's wide-ranging crackdown is a welcome rejection of defeatist talk of decriminalisation.

But bold words without actions will not do.

Boris must take on the notorious county line gangs AND liberal middle-

class casual users who fuel demand.

Home Secretary Priti Patel will be a key player in this new assault so it is good to see Boris throwing his support behind her.

A ten-year war on drugs sounds impressive, but voters will expect results well before the next election.

The Tories have currently lost their reputation as the party of low taxes.

It's time to show they are the party of law and order.

Prince charming

PRINCE William's candid podcast tells us much about the future king.

He is generous, honest and refreshingly open about the mental traumas he suffered as an air ambulance pilot.

But he also speaks movingly about intimate moments with his family.

He describes listening to Tina Turner on the radio with his late mother Diana and his now estranged brother Harry.

And he shows he is prepared to laugh at himself in the name of charity.

When he was unexpectedly invited on stage at one event to sing alongside Jon Bon Jovi and Taylor Swift, he realised he didn't know the words.

But he carried on regardless, saying "I can't be the doofus who's going to ruin it for everyone."

His chat was recorded for an Apple Fitness podcast. But rather than cashing in, he negotiated a deal with the company to donate a substantial six-figure sum to his mental health charities.

We salute William for giving us such a generous insight into his life – and for benefiting others rather than himself.

What a contrast with his money-hungry brother.



Boris... with our man David

By

DAVID WOODING

Assistant Editor

BORIS Johnson will unleash an all-out war on drugs this week in a massive drive to clean up Britain's crime-plagued streets.

The PM is targeting dealers, addicts and casual users who he believes are the root cause of half of all burglaries and violent robberies.

He will unveil a ten-year plan to halt the "pernicious" trade by cutting off supply chains and slashing demand.

In the biggest anti-drugs blitz in a generation, he will invest millions in rehab for desperate addicts, coupled with harsher penalties for pushers and recreational buyers.

In an exclusive interview with The Sun on Sunday, Mr Johnson says politicians have dithered over the scourge for too long – sometimes because they once dabbled in drugs themselves.

He said: "Drugs are driving a lot of misery and we can fix it. They're not going to make you happier. They're not going to make you more successful. They're not going to make you cooler. They're bad news."

Tackling drug abuse will be at the heart of a law and order initiative to be announced this week. It will include:

● **HARSH** punishments to deter lifestyle drug use, including removal of passports and driving licences, night-time curfews and football-style travel bans;

● **TOUGHER** sentences for dealers, action to break up County Lines gangs who exploit children and a crackdown on drugs in prisons;

● **RECORD** spending on treatment and recovery services to get people out of addictions which drive offending;

● **EXTRA** cash for 50 local authorities with the worst drug problems, including Middlesbrough, Blackpool, Liverpool, Hull and coastal towns in the North East and Yorkshire.

It is part of a wider range of measures to combat crime, including laws to protect women and girls from harassment in public, action to speed up justice and new courtroom rules to secure more rape convictions.

Mr Johnson said tackling drug abuse was the key to creating safer streets and delivering his "levelling up" agenda.

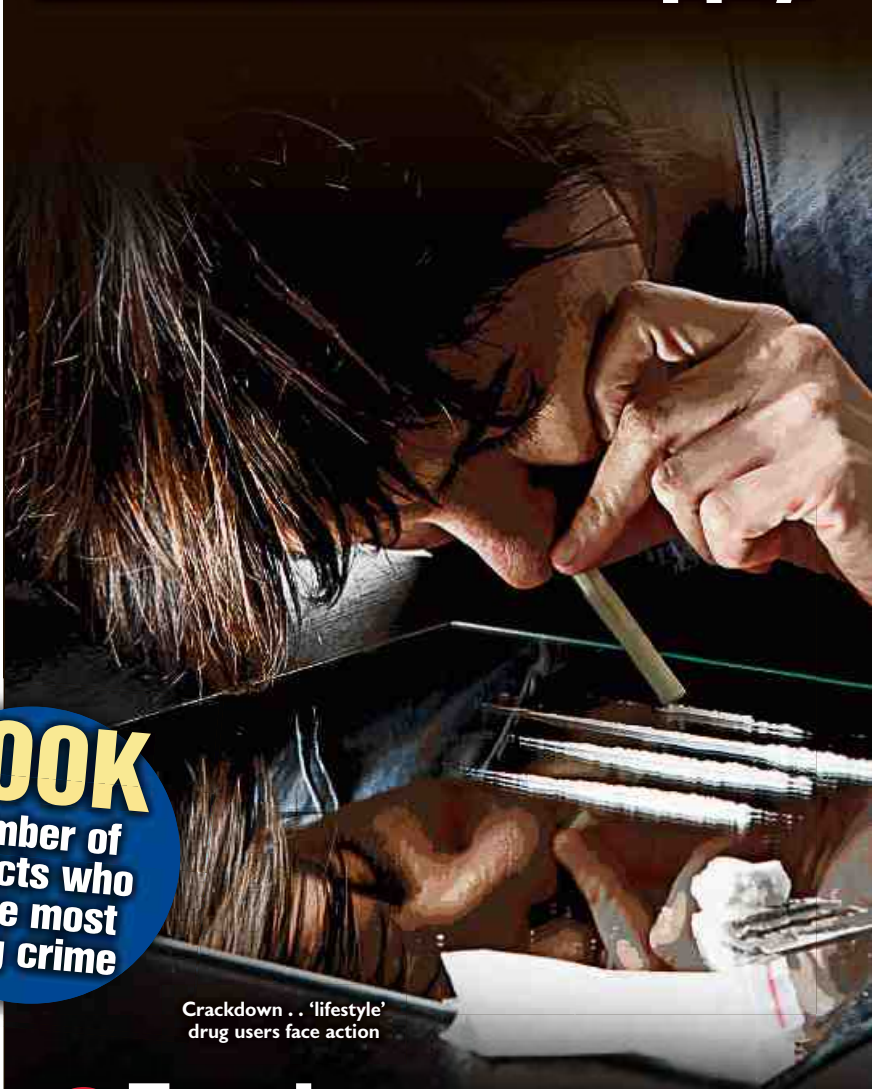
He will launch a twin-pronged approach, with help for those who need it and tough sanctions for those who should know better.

He said: "Most of the crime driven by drugs is generated by 300,000 heroin and crack cocaine users – tragic people who have lost their way in life."

"You can lock them up again and again and we do but they come out again and reoffend so we have got to

PREMIER BORIS

10yr plan to tackle dealers, users, supply



Crackdown... 'lifestyle' drug users face action

300K
number of addicts who drive most drug crime

Tougher sentences in new PM crackdown

rehabilitate them. But then there is a separate group who can cope but who are also feeding the demand and helping to create the economics of the business.

"I don't want to stereotype them but I'm talking about lifestyle drugs. These people think it's a victimless crime."

"It isn't. The country is littered with victims of what's happened. We are going to look at new ways of penalising them. Things that will actually interfere with their lives so we will look at taking away passports and driving licences."

But Mr Johnson refused to entertain suggestions that

decriminalising drugs would solve the problem, saying he sees "no evidence that that's the right thing to do".

He added: "It's been a long time since the government said drugs are bad and dangerous and killing kids up and down the country – and it's time we did something about it."

"I came in on a pledge to cut crime and it has come down quite a long way. But we need to go further."

Mr Johnson has previously admitted trying cocaine at university but he said it made him sneeze and had no effect.

But he also suspects some politicians have been afraid of

acting against drugs for fear of being asked about their own past experiences.

Mr Johnson talked exclusively about his law and order campaign aboard a train on his way to campaign in the North Shropshire by-election.

He revealed he was sickened by the murder of six-year-old Arthur Labinjo-Hughes by his father and stepmum, who were jailed this week.

And he vowed that "some pretty grim lessons" will have to be learned from the case.

He said: "It's just appalling. I could hardly bring myself to read about the case. I did force myself to read it and it

JOHNSON TALKS TO

THE
Sun
ON SUNDAYTHE
DRUGS
DON'T
WORK

ON PRITI

THE PM has given Priti Patel his total support in her battle to stop migrant boats crossing the Channel.

He dismissed Cabinet whispers that he had lost confidence in his Home Secretary as "total b*****s".

Mr Johnson said: "Priti and I have been working on this together for a long time and I really think we're starting to make progress."

"She has an unbelievably difficult task. Look, let's face it, there is a huge legal, political and human rights complex that makes it hard to deport or deter people and stop criminal gangs operating in another country."

"But Priti's worked blindingly hard and we'll soon see a difference." The crunch comes this week when the Nationality And Borders Bill goes through the Commons. BoJo said it would "end this cycle of appeals".



ON MACRON

FRENCH president Emmanuel Macron has been accused of behaving like a jealous younger brother in his spat over the migrant crisis.

He branded Boris Johnson a "clown" on the day 27 people drowned trying to cross the Channel in a flimsy boat.

But the Prime Minister brushed off the insult and refused to get into a slanging match with the pint-sized leader.

He said: "The UK and France are like two large, cheerful, boisterous siblings."

"It's the truth, and it has been that way for hundreds of years."

"We have much more in common that divides us — much, much more."

He added diplomatically: "I have excellent relations with the French government at all levels and we genuinely work very closely with them."



ON XMAS

PEPPA Pig will play a very important role in Christmas celebrations at No10 this year.

The PM's 19-month-old son Wilfred is a big fan of the TV character and hopes Santa will bring him some Peppa toys.

Dad Boris, who took his boy to Peppa Pig World in Hampshire last month, said: "Peppa Pig's a very, very important part of Christmas."

"We've got a Peppa advent calendar."

Wife Carrie — expecting their second child this month — took Wilfred to see Peppa Pig's Best Day Ever in London's West End on Friday. The PM admitted he has not begun Christmas shopping.

But asked if he had been a good boy this year, he replied: "On the whole I've been exceptionally good — by my standards."



War . . . Boris is getting tough on law and order

50
authorities
will get cash
to fight the
epidemic

made me feel sick. You try to imagine how on earth they could have behaved like that.

"It's very important that people get the toughest possible sentences for that kind of offence."

He vowed to press ahead with Tony's Law, which would give courts power to jail child abusers for life. It follows a campaign by the adoptive family of Tony Hudgell, seven, of Kings Hill, Kent, who had both legs amputated following abuse.

Mr Johnson also promised action to create safer streets for women and girls and restore public confidence in the police — which was shattered by the murder of Sarah Everard by

Met officer Wayne Couzens. He pledged to double the conviction rate for rape and serious sexual offences by changing what is permissible in court.

Pestering women in the street or pubs and making lewd comments could also become an offence. Mr Johnson said: "There was a big public outcry about Sarah Everard's death. The public are never wrong."

"Women find it very frustrating and infuriating and completely soul-destroying when they can't get justice for crimes of rape, domestic violence and serious sexual assault because they are not being prosecuted in the numbers that they need to be."

Many victims had been worn down by a defendant demanding messages on their phone are disclosed in court — often when they are irrelevant to the case.

The PM said: "We are now trying to fix it. We're changing the rules about what's permissible and what can be used in court."

"We are putting more prosecutors in but we need to restore people's faith in the system and get many more convicted."

He added: "I believe passionately in the police. But if we are going to have confidence in the police, people need to know that they are going to get justice, that they are going to be treated with courtesy and respect. What

people want is the law enforced. They want their cases heard."

"They want criminals' collars felt and they want people banged up. I want officers out on the street and not endlessly sitting behind terminals trying to do stuff online when we need to fight neighbourhood crime."

"We can win the fight against crime and make neighbourhoods much safer, more attractive and happier to live in."

"But you have to be tough on crime. And that's exactly what we intend to do."

david.wooding@the-sun.co.uk

The Sun on Sunday Says — Page 16
Love Isle Star's Snort Vid — Page 25

MUM'S PLEA TO GET BUYING FOR OUR XMAS CAMPAIGN



PRESENTER and former Blue Peter host **KONNIE HUQ**, 46, who was one of our Christmas card judges, said: "I've got mine and have started writing them already."

"So get going and order some now, so you can do the same and as many presents as possible can be bought for so many of those children who are living with cancer this Christmas."



KEITH Lemon comedian **LEIGH FRANCIS**, whose dad died of cancer at 47, said: "It's so cool your competition winners have had their own Christmas cards printed and sold, and even cooler that they're helping children with cancer this Christmas."

The 48-year-old added: "To think of a child suffering at any time is so sad. At Christmas it is dreadful. Please all buy these cards."



HOLLYOAKS actress **JORGIE PORTER**, 33, said: "This is such a wonderful campaign. I hope all your readers buy these cards so that children with cancer can have an extra-special Christmas present from a stranger who cares."

"My love goes to every brave little soldier fighting this horrible disease. May all their Christmas wishes come true."



RARE RESPITE... Dylan and his mum Rachael are looking forward to spending Christmas at home. Inset, winning cards



SINGER MICHELLE HEATON said: "This year I am focusing on giving back. "Everyone can do their bit, and buying these cards so a child with cancer can have a special present is just wonderful."

Michelle, 42, added: "Christmas is a time for giving and those children really need your support at this time of year. I will be buying some of the cards."



APPRENTICE star and Sun on Sunday columnist **KAREN BRADY**, 52, said: "For families with children affected by cancer, the past two years have been even more unbearably tough. "So please find it in your hearts to get behind this fantastic campaign and buy some of these amazing cards - and spread some joy to those who need it most this Christmas."



MASTERCHEF judge **GREGG WALLACE** said: "If you're going to buy a charity card this Christmas, then make it one of these."

Gregg, 57, added: "We can all feel for parents with seriously unwell children at any time. Christmas is a time for families and a time for giving. Put a smile on the faces of a worried family this Christmas by doing something good."

The card work starts now!

LITTLE Dylan Jeffs is one of thousands of children living with cancer - and we are calling for YOUR help to make them smile this Christmas.

We launched a drawing competition last month, with our campaign partner Young Lives vs Cancer, and the winning designs have now been turned into limited-edition Christmas cards for sale.

We are asking our generous readers to buy them - as every single penny will go towards providing presents for young sufferers staying at the charity's Homes From Home centres over Christmas.

Three-year-old Dylan will spend the next three years being treated for leukaemia. But at least he will be at home this festive season - unlike thousands of others.

His dad Russell, 35, an HGV driver, said: "Please buy these cards. The money goes to making Christmas special for children, like Dylan, who are facing cancer treatment."

"He's lucky not to be in hospital for Christmas but if he was, knowing someone, somewhere, cared enough to help him have presents would mean the world."

Dylan was diagnosed in January this year. Mum Rachael, 32, said: "If it

By **CLARE O'REILLY** and **NICK McGRATH**

had been before, I don't think we would have been able to sort presents, and Christmas would have gone out of the window.

"All we could focus on doing was going from day to day. It has been a whirlwind ever since."

"Simply buying some cards will mean children with cancer can have the Christmas they deserve."

"We're lucky Dylan is at a point in his treatment cycle where he'll be home for Christmas. But lots of children and families we know will be in hospital getting treatment or staying at Homes from Home."

'Tummy rash'

Russell and social worker Rachael have now organised a perfect family Christmas at their home in Dudley, West Mids, all carefully planned around Dylan's chemo treatments.

Rachael said: "From when he was born, he was always getting ill. He'd catch bugs and be poorly for a while but he'd always get better."

"After Christmas last year he went down with another bug but he didn't get any better."

"He wasn't sleeping and was really clingy. Then he got a rash on his

tummy that started to spread. I called 111 and was sent an ambulance."

Ever since the couple got the devastating diagnosis, cancer has become part of their daily lives.

Russell said: "He's battled sepsis, had operations and lost his hair in his fight against leukaemia. When he was diagnosed he had intensive treatment which left him really lifeless."

"When he came out of hospital in March, I took him to feed the ducks - but he was too tired even to throw some bread. Watching your child go from racing around to being so sick and vulnerable was horrible."

"Now Dylan has a line on his chest for his medication. He has a little doctor's kit he likes to play with."

"He was playing with it the other week and started trying to find the 'central line' on my chest. He's spent a quarter of his little life with cancer so it's become a new normal for him."

"But it is tough. He has a weak immune system. If he gets even the slightest temperature we have to take him straight to hospital."

"Every single place we go, we are always thinking about germs and bacteria and what he could potentially pick up."

"We've got a long road ahead but he has responded well to treatment so far and we're taking it day by day. That's all you can do."

HOW TO BUY CARDS

THESE cracking cards are available online at younglivesvs.cancer.org.uk and from any of the charity's 13 shops.

Each pack, printed courtesy of printed.com, contain 12 cards - four of each winning design - and cost £4. Your cards will arrive within three days - plenty of time to write and send them to loved ones for Christmas. Young Lives vs Cancer has charity shops in Gloucester plus Bridgwater, Clevedon,

Wells and Yeovil in Somerset; Downend, Fishponds, Staple Hill and Keynsham near Bristol; Exeter, Newton Abbot and Tiverton in Devon; and Saltash in Cornwall. Also see shop.younglivesvscancer.org.uk/

printed.com



HOW TO DONATE

To support the day-to-day running of Young Lives vs Cancer's Homes from Home, go to younglivesvscancer.org.uk/cardsforkids.

Or text: GIVE 5 to 70025 to give £5; GIVE 10 to 70025 to give £10; GIVE 20 to 70025 to give £20.

Or call 0300 330 0803 (Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm).

Or send a cheque payable to "Young Lives vs Cancer" with

your name and address to: The Sun on Sunday Christmas Cards For Kids, Young Lives vs Cancer campaign, 126 Fairlie Road, Slough SL1 4PY. Please put a stamp on the envelope.

■ **TERMS AND CONDITIONS:** As a supporter of Young Lives vs Cancer, you will get updates and news of appeals by phone and post.

You can change how you hear from the charity by emailing supporter.services@younglivesvscancer.org.uk or by calling 0300 330 0803. Texts cost a donation amount plus

YOUNG LIVES vs CANCER

one standard network rate message. Young Lives vs Cancer will receive 100 per cent of your donation. To opt out of calls, text NOCALL CLIC to 78866. To opt out of SMS, text NOSMS CLIC to 78866. Texts will be charged at your network's standard message charge. If you have any questions, call Young Lives vs Cancer on 0300 330 0803. Registered charity number 1107328 and registered in Scotland SC039857.



Andrew ... with Epstein

Andrew's 4 flights on Lolita Express

By JAMES BEAL, US Editor

PRINCE Andrew flew on billionaire paedophile Jeffrey Epstein's "Lolita Express" private jet at least four times, it was reported last night.

One flight was to the financier's Little St James island in the Caribbean, according to logs seen by the Mail on Sunday.

The isle was allegedly the scene of sex abuse.

Andrew, 61, has admitted visiting it but insists he never saw anything untoward.

The claims came as a massage table seized from Epstein's Florida mansion was carried into Ghislaine Maxwell's trafficking trial.

It was set up in the New York court as prosecutors claimed massages were a ruse to get girls to touch the billionaire, who died in jail in 2019.

Maxwell, 59, denies luring young girls to be molested by Epstein between 1994 and 2004.

The trial continues.



Neck ops ... Ozzy

Ozzy in surgery struggle to stand

By JAMES BEAL

ROCK icon Ozzy Osbourne has admitted he can no longer stand up easily without help.

Neck surgery has left the Black Sabbath singer, 72, struggling to walk and maintain his balance.

Doctors had to correct issues from an earlier op, which replaced rods in his back and neck after a bathroom fall in 2019.

Ozzy — who has been forced to postpone his farewell tour again — admitted: "I still haven't got the balance."

"I may have to have another surgery before the end of the year. My legs are f*****."

His bathroom fall dislodged metal screws put in his spine after a quad-bike accident in 2003.

Speaking on radio station Sirius XM, Ozzy added: "I have physical therapy every morning, three days a week. I'm trying the best I can but my stamina has gone."



Picture: ANN SUMMERS

MODEL SOME MAUR

By HANNAH HOPE

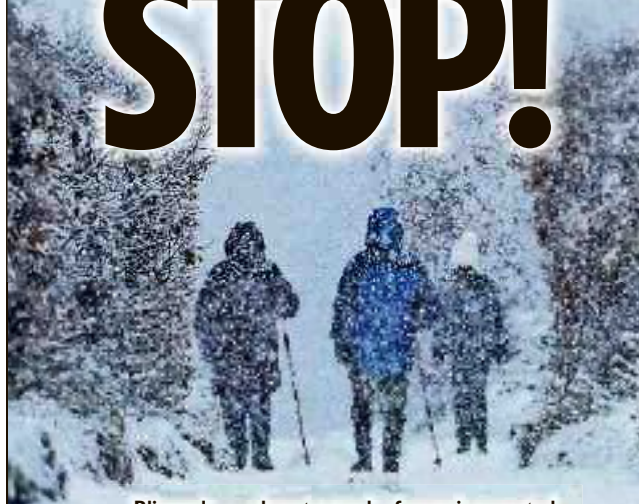
MAURA Higgins is a real frill seeker as she shows off her long legs in a black negligee and heels.

The Love Island beauty, 31, modelled the latest installment of her Ann Summers range. She has recently enjoyed some winter sun having just returned from a luxury trip to the Maldives.

Single Maura was joined on holiday by fellow reality star Lucie Donlan, 23, who starred alongside her in the ITV2 series in 2019.

DECEMBRRRR

5 DAYS WITH SNOW STOP!



Blizzards ... almost a week of snow is expected

Ice & wind till midweek

By ANDY ROBINSON

FIVE days of snow and blistering winds will batter Britain from today — as thousands of people are still without power from Storm Arwen.

Eastern England, the North Yorkshire Moors, Lincolnshire and Scotland are expected to be worst hit.

The Met Office also issued yellow weather warnings for rain in parts of the North East on top of strong gales.

And temperatures could plummet to as low as -11C into the week thanks to a bitter overnight windchill.

Meteorologist Steve Keats said: "If you're out and about doing the Christmas shopping, put on some extra layers."

It comes as more than 9,000 homes were still without power nine days after Arwen downed electricity lines.

Two thirds of affected households are in the North East with others dotted around the North West and Scotland.

The Ministry of Defence said it had drafted in 297 British Army and Royal Marines personnel to conduct door-to-door checks on the vulnerable and reassure communities.

The continuing blackout led energy regulator Ofgem to launch an urgent review into how companies responded.

It said it would take enforcement action against any suppliers that have failed to meet their obligations.

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3-DAY FORECAST		
TODAY	High: 9°C Low: -1°C Wintry showers	
TOMORROW	High: 9°C Low: -2°C Snow	
TUESDAY	High: 10°C Low: 0°C Windy and snowy	

Party 'is anti-Jew'

JEWISH Labour members think their local party is unfriendly, a poll found.

Two thirds have concerns over their group while others say members are unwelcoming.

The same proportion say selection is not based on merit, think-tank the Fabian Society reports. One member said: "I faced questions about my loyalty because I am Jewish."

The society noted little progress since its previous survey in 2015. Labour insisted it was rebuilding trust.

RAGING RAYNER

Labour No2 vented at Sir Keir over reshuffle snub



ANGELA Rayner raged at Sir Keir Starmer for keeping her in the dark over his reshuffle.

The Labour No2 vented her fury during a meeting in the leader's office at the House of Commons.

The showdown came after Ms Rayner had to fend off questions about the moves which

Showdown... Ms Rayner

By **RYAN SABEY**
Political Correspondent

overshadowed her speech on standards and Tory sleaze.

Her raised voice could reportedly be heard through the door – and she was not happy.

But one party source said: "Keir is the leader. He can tell whoever he wants or doesn't want about changes he makes."

Ms Rayner had previously been informed that changes were imminent but details of

the shake-up were kept tightly under wraps.

Sir Keir brought in Yvette Cooper as shadow home secretary and promoted Lisa Nandy to shadow levelling up secretary.

Wes Streeting was given the health brief and Bridget Phillipson the education portfolio.

The Labour leader was at pains yesterday to insist there was no issue between the pair, who both were elected to their positions in April last year.

But he offered no apology for

not letting the deputy know about the pending changes.

He said: "There is no personal issue between me and Angela."

"We're friends, we get on, we talk a lot. We bring different things to the table. The two of us make each other stronger."

"She's politically astute and invaluable to me as a deputy."

Sir Keir said Labour was now the party of middle England and it would establish a consistent poll lead over the next year.

ryan.sabey@thesun.co.uk

Set your stage this Christmas

Gingerbread cookie jar
£12 each

ASDA PRICE

Give The PRICE Feeling This Christmas

George.com

Selected stores. Subject to availability. Online delivery charges may apply. Gingerbread dinner set £18, gingerbread shaped plate £6, gingerbread house cookie jar £12, gingerbread teapot £8.



Fled UK... Shahzad

Visa con fugitive in jail at last

EXCLUSIVE
by **RYAN SABEY**

A FUGITIVE is finally in jail for his part in running a network that helped people cheat the immigration system.

Salman Shahzad was ringleader of a gang which helped people fraudulently gain visas to run businesses in the UK. But he fled to Pakistan before his sentencing.

The rest of the gang were locked up for a total of 20 years at Harrow crown court in 2014.

Shahzad, 45, was arrested when he tried to return to the UK under a false identity.

He was extradited from Dublin on Friday and returned to the UK to serve his term of eight years, nine months.

XMAS TV

ONLY Fools And Horses topped Christmas Day ratings eight times from 1990-2003, and in 2001 was this century's most-watched Dec 25 show with 21.3 million viewers.

CRACKERS

Hopeful's 'rape' text

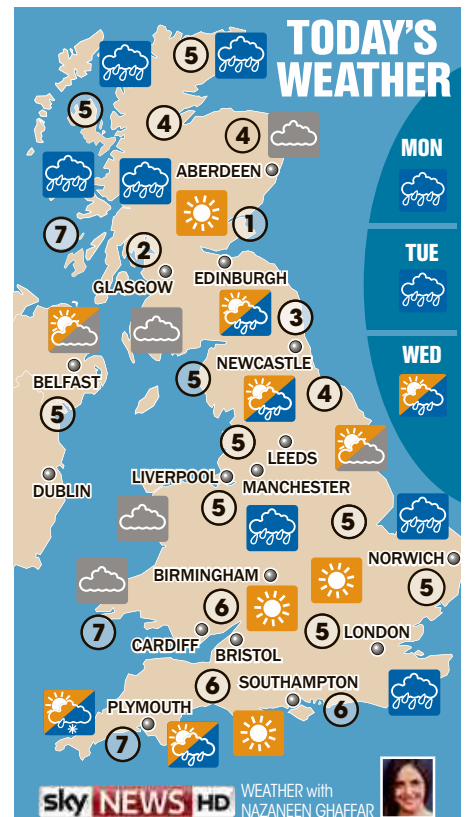
THE far-right firebrand hoping to become president of France texted a woman saying he wanted to rape her, it is claimed.

Eric Zemmour, 63, is alleged to have targeted her with abuse in 2018.

His accuser, a press officer in her 20s, says he finished a text exchange with: "So I'll wait until you invite me into your home to rape you."

Officials confirmed the text came from his phone.

The married father of three faces sex claims from seven other women but denies wrongdoing.



TODAY: A sunny start in western areas, cloudy further east with showers along the coasts, some of which may turn wintry over the hills. The rain will clear in the afternoon, while thick cloud will spread into western parts. Top temperature will be 7C (44F)

TONIGHT: Largely cloudy by midnight but with a few clear spells in eastern parts. Sleet or snow showers may hit western areas as the night goes on. Outbreaks of snow in Scotland and along the Pennines.

OUTLOOK: Rain and showers to start tomorrow. Becoming brighter in the afternoon but with wintry showers in the west. Windy on Tuesday with heavy rain across the UK.

IN 1952, London was engulfed in smog from December 5 to 9. It was blamed for the deaths of at least 4,000 people, mainly elderly, and led to the introduction of the 1956 Clean Air Act.

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LAST NIGHT'S LOTTO BALLS

LOTTO: 8, 24, 25, 32, 33, 46. Bonus 47.
HEALTH: 18, 22, 27, 38, 39. Bonus 23.



Struggles... Frank

Lifetime gong for Bruno at MOBOs

EXCLUSIVE by
MICHAEL HAMILTON

FRANK Bruno will be honoured with a special award at tonight's MOBOs ceremony.

The ex-heavyweight boxing champ will get a "paving the way" gong for his work on mental health and highlighting his bipolar disorder.

A source said: "Frank is honoured to get this award. He absolutely loves his music so to be recognised by MOBO in this way is extra special. "Frank's had a tough time but this is a great way to end the year."

He's determined to stay healthy and busy."

Frank, 60, told The Sun on Sunday in October that he had been sectioned during lockdown.

Tonight's MOBOs will be held at the Coventry Building Society Arena.

Mush be mistaken

SHOPPERS at Marks & Spencer were shocked its stores appeared to be selling magic mushrooms.

The chain's £5-a-box chocolate Magical Mushrooms are red with white spots like the hallucinogenic fly agaric fungi.

A shopper posted: "Someone in the M&S chocolate department's having a laugh."

Another said: "Just the Magical Mushrooms name's funny."

Food site Delish joked: "Magical Mushrooms, don't even go there." M&S did not comment.



MOVIE *Bad Santa*, about a miserable con-man posing as a store Father Christmas, is definitely on the naughty list - with 147 uses of the F-word.



Dornan's model lie

FIFTY Shades of Grey star Jamie Dornan used to tell women he was a landscape gardener - because he was too embarrassed to admit being a model.

Jamie, 39, now a married dad of three, said he "didn't love" the job - so he lied about it on dates.

He told the November-December edition of GQ magazine: "There is too much vanity in it and it just feels doucheb." He turned to acting and found fame as Christian Grey in the 2015 erotic drama film.

FANS UNITE IN TRIBUTE



BRISTOL CITY v DERBY



COVENTRY v WEST BROM



WORCESTER v WASPS



WEST HAM v CHELSEA



BIRMINGHAM CITY

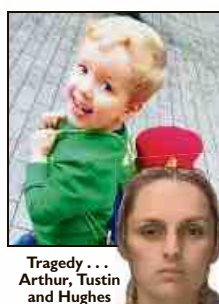
FOOTBALLERS and fans paid tribute to tragic Arthur Labinjo-Hughes yesterday.

His favourite team, Birmingham City, wore "Arthur We Love You" T-shirts before their fixture at Millwall. Other matches including West Ham v Chelsea

honoured the six-year-old with sixth-minute applause and beamed his image on giant screens. Rugby sides Worcester Warriors and Wasps paid their respects.

By JULIA ATHERLEY

ARTHUR FIENDS' 'SOFT' SENTENCE



Tragedy... Arthur, Tustin and Hughes

EXCLUSIVE
by MICHAEL HAMILTON

JAIL terms handed to the cruel couple who killed six-year-old Arthur Labinjo-Hughes will be reviewed to see if they were too soft.

The tragic lad's stepmother Emma Tustin was jailed on Friday for 29

Jail terms to be reviewed

years for his murder while his father Thomas Hughes got 21 years for manslaughter.

But yesterday the Attorney General's Office said it would now "determine whether they were too low".

The announcement came after local MP Julian Knight, who yesterday laid flowers at a shrine to Arthur, tweeted that he would be asking for a

review. Coventry crown court heard Tustin, 32, and Hughes, 29, subjected Arthur to a sustained campaign of abuse at home in Solihull. Social workers and police failed to act despite repeated warnings.

Yesterday it emerged complaints about local children's social services had shot up 80 per cent under a new boss.

Senior staff were distracted by being swamped dealing with them, it is claimed. Lou-

ise Rees took over as Solihull Council's head of children's services in March 2019.

Immediately afterwards, grievances rose from 16 every three months to 29 by the end of March 2020.

The 60-year-old announced her retirement two weeks after Arthur's death in June last year and has yet to apologise for failings.

Rees was allowed to keep her £123,000 salary for another 12 months while a replacement was sought. Her profile on LinkedIn describes her as "retired and loving it".
mike.hamilton@thesun.co.uk

SHE is royalty among fans of RUPAUL'S Drag Race UK, but BAGA CHIPZ is also popular with fashion's A-List. We can reveal that supermodel CARA DELEVINGNE slid into her DMs. The drag legend said: "I was surprised when Cara messaged me saying she's a big fan. She was like, 'We should go shopping together.' I'd love that." Speaking in partnership with Just Eat and Papa John's, Baga added: "There's no bitchiness between me and the other drag queens from the show. We all just want to support each other, there's no jealousy."

Email: laura.armstrong@the-sun.co.uk and hannah.hope@thesun.co.uk Twitter: @LauraSunShowbiz and @HannahHope_

RUDE guests at the British Fashion Awards were told by security to stub out their cigarettes after lighting up INSIDE the Royal Albert Hall. An onlooker said: "Some fashionistas felt they were above the law. It was really disrespectful and rude. Staff couldn't believe their audacity." A spokeswoman confirmed: "Smoking is not permitted inside the Royal Albert Hall and anyone the staff saw smoking was asked to stop and to only smoke outside in the smoking area."

TOYAH'S BACKING FOR BRITS

POP icon TOYAH WILLCOX has welcomed the Brit Awards going gender neutral.

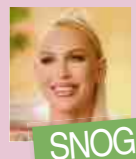
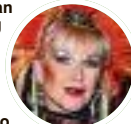
Toyah, who was nominated for four Brits in the Eighties, thinks the move is a positive step towards inclusivity.

She said: "I think the Brits are ahead of the game and I think it's an amazing thing to do. We have to protect every individual. People must not be pushed into labels, and I think it's going to empower a whole new generation."

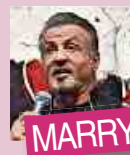
The It's A Mystery singer is starring in London's Proud Embankment Cabaret All Stars show. Despite her 63 years she shows no sign of slowing down.

Toyah said: "My advice to people of all ages is to grab life by the horns and have confidence in yourself."

We can't argue with that...



CHRISTINE QUINN for playing the best ever pantomime villain in Netflix must-watch Selling Sunset.



SYLVESTER STALLONE for pursuing his dream of being an artist and showcasing his paintings in Germany.



LITTLE MIX for branding their split as "a hiatus" – and drawing it out for so long.

AVOID

This week who we would...

BRUNO'S \$1M FOR 30-MINUTE SHOW



MARS BAR... Bruno will open Sexy Fish

FORGET about 24K Magic – **BRUNO MARS** should be singing One Million Magic after pocketing \$1million (around £760,000) for a gig lasting just half an hour.

We can reveal that the Hawaii-born crooner is performing at the launch party of snazzy restaurant Sexy Fish in Miami next weekend.

And we hear bosses are laying on a private jet for him too.

The 30-minute sesh is barely enough time for him to belt out even half of his hits, which include When I Was Your Man, Locked Out of Heaven, Grenade, Marry You and Finesse – but we're sure he'll put on a show.

The 5ft 5in star is also likely to be donning one of his signature hats on the night.

Speaking previously, he said: "I'm a short guy, and that's always something I have to think about."

"I've always done the hat thing. Now I'm doing ones with bigger brims to make myself look taller."

The lavish sushi restaurant originally opened in London in 2015 and is a celebrity staple.

We're sure its US counterpart will enjoy the same all-star status.

MODEL'S JOUR DE VIVRE

SUPERMODEL JOURDAN DUNN smouldered in a monochrome dress split to the thigh as she enjoyed The Business Of Fashion Voices 2021 gala on Friday night.

The star partied alongside fashionista pals including DAVID GANDY and NEELAM GILL at Soho Farmhouse in Oxfordshire.



SUMMIT... Geri and Mel B arrive at hotel

JUST weeks after we revealed that the **SPICE GIRLS** were in secret talks about a 2023 world tour, we can reveal that the four-some are piling pressure on **VICTORIA BECKHAM** to join them.

Baby Spice **EMMA BUNTON**, Scary Spice **MEL B** and Ginger Spice **GERI HALLIWELL** were spotted arriving at the Mandeville Hotel in London's Marylebone for a meeting last month, with **MEL C** calling in by Zoom from the US.

Now Sporty Spice has revealed the women aren't giving up hope of roping Posh in.

She said: "How can you be too busy to do a Spice Girls reunion?"

"It is an interesting topic of conver-

GIRLS WANT

sation. Victoria didn't want to get back on stage and we completely respect that.

"I felt the same. I was like, 'It's five or nothing.' And then I just had a change of heart."

Sporty went on: "Victoria gave us her blessing for the last tour."

"We hope that she will be back on stage at some point. That is the dream. That is the plan."

"We do work on her. There's lots of emotional blackmail. The shows in 2019 were so incredible."

"The reaction was great. We didn't get out of the UK and Ireland and it's

WHO HAVE YOU SPOTTED?



JOEL DOMMETT and model missus **HANNAH COOPER** getting a head start on their Christmas shopping at Bicester Village on Monday.



AYDA FIELD WILLIAMS, **SAMANTHA BARKS** and **AMANDA HOLDEN** chatting away in the toilets at the Cinderella gala night.

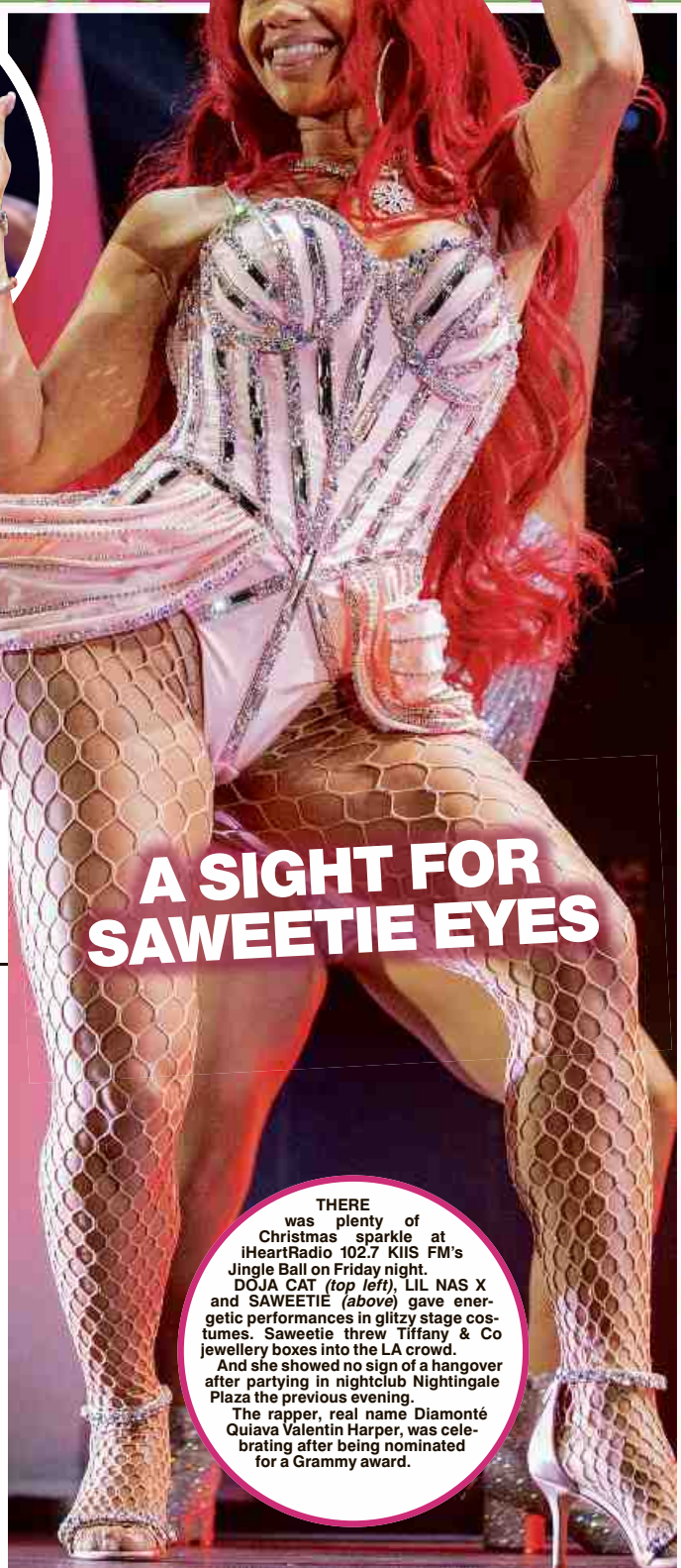
ON SUNDAY

with LAURA ARMSTRONG and HANNAH HOPE

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SILVER SERVICE
... Lil Nas X



A SIGHT FOR SAWEETIE EYES

THERE was plenty of Christmas sparkle at iHeartRadio 102.7 KIIS FM's Jingle Ball on Friday night. DOJA CAT (top left), LIL NAS X and SAWEETIE (above) gave energetic performances in glitzy stage costumes. Saweetie threw Tiffany & Co jewellery boxes into the LA crowd. And she showed no sign of a hangover after partying in nightclub Nightingale Plaza the previous evening. The rapper, real name Diamonté Quiana Valentin Harper, was celebrating after being nominated for a Grammy award.

for Posh

HER FOR

SPICE TOUR



SPICE OF LIFE
... Posh at 1997 Brits
in group's prime

a big old world out there. We have been lucky to do the US, but we have never done South America, Australia or South East Asia, which is insane. "Hopefully Victoria feels as if we missed out and hopefully that will bring her back.

"Even if we do the shows, which we intend to do, we want to do more reunion shows when things are safer. "If she decides not to join us then she is 100 per cent with us - creatively she is there.

"Maybe she will be in the wings, but she would be dragged on. "I think it was too difficult for

her to watch and be in the audience."

The group, who celebrated their 25th anniversary last month, performed their last world tour as a five-piece from 2007 to 2008.

But Victoria has been focused on her fashion business.

Speaking on the Zach Sang show in the US, Sporty Spice added: "The Spice Girls are bigger than any one member.

"It's its own entity. It is wonderful to be part of that."

We certainly hope they can twist Posh's arm...



NICK KNOWLES and his girlfriend Katie Dadzie getting cosy together at Nobu Hotel in London this week.



KRIS JENNER at members' club Soho Farmhouse in Oxfordshire with fashion guru TOMMY HILFGER.



WOODY COOK looking loved up with his new girlfriend Nell Williams at the Attitude magazine 101 bash.



Tree... in bedroom

Let's get wood in boudoir

By NICK PISA

COUPLES are erecting Christmas trees in the bedroom – to perk up their love lives. Experts say they find the sight of its green prickles and smell of pine the ultimate turn-on. Twinkling lights and dangling baubles also get them in the mood. One in six customers put their trees in the bedroom, a survey for Gardening Express found. One female customer explained: “My boyfriend was dead against a tree in the bedroom but I said we could stay in bed all day on Christmas and that won him over.” Gardening Express director Chris Bonnett said: “It connects us with nature and reminds us of our earliest ancestors who slept and made love in the outdoors.”

FINE IS PEANUTS

Students can pay parking tickets by giving jars of peanut butter to their university food bank in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

BRITAIN'S TOP FEMALE SPY 'REVEALED'

By GRAEME CULLIFORD

SHE is Britain's top secret agent whose job at MI5 is so dangerous that she can't even tell her close family about the work.

But the woman known as Director K has admitted her children “rumbled” her, using their own spy skills. In her first interview, she added that the kids are responsible enough to keep it as their own top secret. Director K, who monitors Russian, Chinese and Iranian spies, is in her 40s but gave few details of her private life in the wide-ranging chat. She said she has decided to speak out now as Britain faces an unprecedented security threat that means we must all join in warding off hostile powers.

Cyber attacks

She described the menace from Russia – responsible for the Novichok poisoning of double agent Sergei Skripal in Salisbury in 2018 – as a “storm” and said Russia carries out “lightning strikes” in other countries, and was unpredictable. By contrast, the global risk posed by increasingly powerful and aggressive China is similar to climate change – in that it is changing the way the world works, which presents major opportunities as well as threats for Britain. Admitting that she does wake up worrying about the risks faced by her children in the modern world, Director K summed up the dangers: “The state threats, the way the world is changing, exacerbated by Covid.



PICTURE POSED BY MODEL

‘My kids have rumbled what I do...they think it's really cool’

SPOOKS' HQ... the MI5 building in Central London



The name's K, Director K

How do we do this properly? This is not within our gift, if it ever was for MI5. It has to be a whole of society effort.” Speaking to The Daily Telegraph at MI5's Thames House headquarters in London, she added: “It is really easy to think of this stuff as being spy-on-spy, old-school movies-and-novels territory, Cold War stuff, but it really isn't. It impacts every area of society – potentially every individual in the UK.”

Director K sees her job as dealing with every aspect of security outside of counter-terrorism, including Vladimir Putin's hitmen, and cyber attacks carried out by countries such as North Korea. And after spending so long studying other nations which don't have a free press, she noted how important it was that we in this country safeguard ours, saying it is “really worth protecting”. As one of our most senior

domestic spies, Director K's identity can never be revealed and not even the journalist who interviewed her this week was told her real name. Only her boss, Ken McCollum, the MI5 director-general – who gave an in-depth interview to The Sun on Thursday – has his name in the public domain. Director K has been at MI5 for two years and switched roles after two decades

with MI6, spending at least some of that time in hostile territory. She said she understands why people might compare her to stereotyped female spies in Bond films. Rosa Klebb in From Russia With Love, for instance, would dispatch enemies with a spike hidden in a shoe. Director K said: “Stereotypes can be helpful, because my kids think what I do is really cool.”



Now is the time to make our voices heard. If we stand together and speak up for LGBTQ+ fans, football can become truly open to all.

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Knitter . . . Edna

Gran hits target of £100,000 by 100th

By JAMES SOMPER

A GREAT gran has hit her target of raising £100,000 for charity before she reaches 100. Edna Liddicoat makes thousands of Easter chicks, Santas and snowmen ready to be stuffed with chocolate and sold. She began in 2002 and raised £95,000 for the Merlin MS Centre by her 99th birthday last month. Edna, of St Austell, Cornwall, made it to £100,000 for the neurological charity a few weeks later. She said: "I couldn't do any of this without my wonderful family and friends. Those that don't knit, sell. "And those who don't sell, buy the chocolate." She is raising funds in memory of her multiple sclerosis sufferer granddaughter Karen, who died aged 44 in 2014.

Illy's plea on dying

CRICKET legend Ray Illingworth has backed assisted dying, saying he would "like to be put to sleep in peace". The ex-England captain, 89, is undergoing a third round of radiotherapy for oesophageal cancer. He spoke after watching wife Shirley die of breast cancer. The former Yorkshire and Leicestershire all-rounder said: "My time hasn't come yet, but when it does come I'll know." Daughter Diane vowed to accompany him to an overseas assisted dying clinic due to a UK ban.

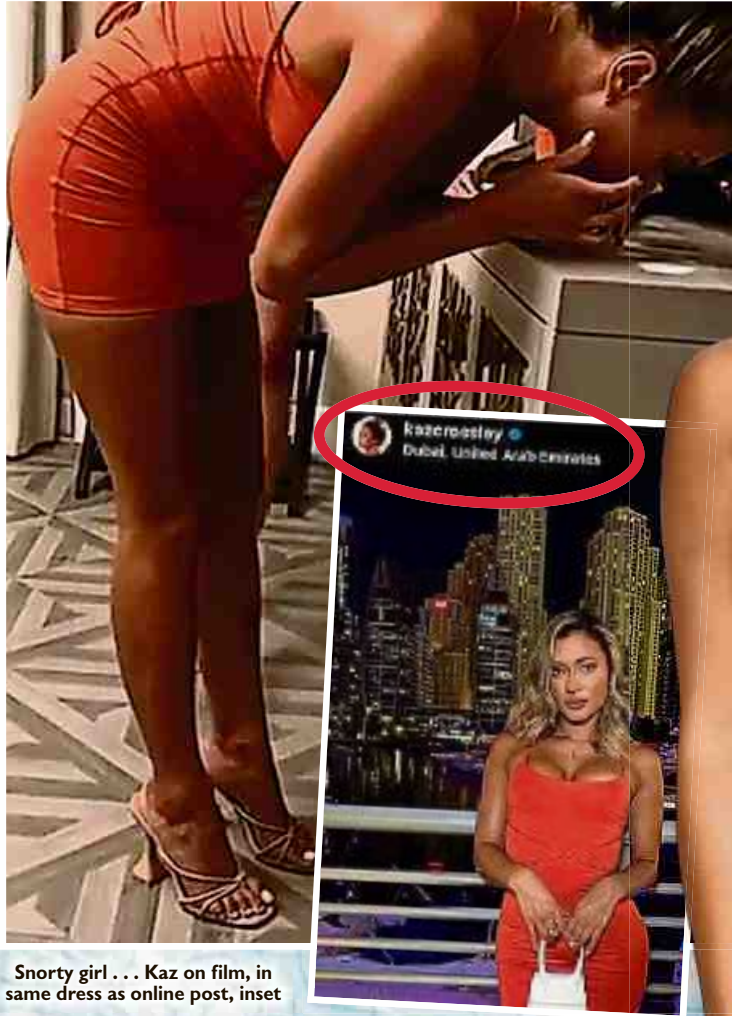


CHRISTMAS schedules were interrupted in 1968 by the crew of the Apollo 8 space mission, who gave 20-minute broadcasts every day as they orbited Earth.

Insincere Sancerre

ONE in ten dinner party hosts pour cheap wine into a more expensive bottle to impress guests, a survey has found. Millennials are most likely to try the trick – with one in three confessing to doing so. One in four 25 to 34-year-olds also admits mixing different wines in the same bottle without telling their guests. But one in eight has been caught lying about the wine they have served, often falling out with guests over it, the Aldi research shows.

EXCLUSIVE: STAR SHOCKER



Snorty girl . . . Kaz on film, in same dress as online post, inset



Love Isle's Kaz in Dubai snort video

By HANNAH HOPE
Assistant Showbiz Editor

LOVE Island star Kaz Crossley has been filmed snorting a suspicious white substance at a party.

Influencer Kaz, 26, is seen bending over a side table where chunky lines of powder appear to be laid out.

The video is alleged to have been filmed in Dubai in November last year as the UK was in lockdown.

No one was allowed to

SHE'S FILMED AT PARTY

travel unless it was for work. But like many influencers at the time, Kaz – who boasts 1.2million Instagram followers – was "working" in the United Arab Emirates city. Her agent said at the time that Kaz had been there since October – so was therefore a resident rather than a tourist. Kaz – who came third on the ITV2 reality series in 2018 – was filmed in an orange mini dress. A picture

posted on social media earlier in the evening showed her in the same dress with the caption: "So clean when I pull up to the scene." A shocked witness said: "Kaz was running with quite a hard partying crowd. "She certainly isn't as squeaky clean as she makes out online." Dubai has zero tolerance for drugs-related offences. The penalties for possession of drugs, even residual

amounts, are severe and punishable by up to 20 years imprisonment. Kaz split from her Love Island beau, presenter Josh Denzel, in January 2019 – six months after reaching the show's final in Majorca. She went on to date athlete Theo Campbell – a previous Love Island star – before dumping him last year. She is currently single. She has just bought her second home in Manchester,

and is an avid traveller. As well as running her own hair accessories business, Kaz Bands, she has also fronted high-profile campaigns for Asda, Kiss nails, Boohoo and Inglot. In an interview in 2019, she opened up about her healthy lifestyle and said: "In the summer I love to go on runs, and I go to the gym at least three times a week in winter. "I love kick-boxing. I enjoy eating healthily + lots of salads." The Sun on Sunday approached Kaz's agents for comment. hannah.hope@thesun.co.uk

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Karren Brady

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BLIND SPOT... OAPs

WHO'S LIGHT IDEA?

SHOULD older drivers get points on their licence for running red lights?

Er, surely "yes, they should", right?

Well, not according to a new Government-funded road safety report which has recommended that older drivers should be able to run red lights without getting points on their licence.

When someone is found to be unsafe behind the wheel, a report is sent to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, which considers whether to revoke their licence.

In other cases, the driver is sent away to get lessons and offered a reassessment within three months.

Those being assessed would avoid the typical £100 fine and three points on their licence but that just does not make good sense.

In fact, any driver who can't see a big red light or who decides it is OK to drive through one should not be driving at all.

● SORRY, but a new survey which finds that 43 is the ideal age to opt out of a fast-paced life and settle down is just plain wrong.

That is around the age when many people's kids are growing up, maybe even starting to work, and leave home – and parents finally get some proper time to see friends, travel and do whatever we want.

We'll be working for another 20 years, and – frankly – many of us are just getting going.

UK STAY IS A-OK

SO what are your plans this Christmas?

And are you keeping up with the very confusing and seemingly ever-changing advice?

Well, despite dreaming last year of just how fabulous this Christmas would be, ideally in some very far-flung and hot location, I have made no plans because I can't be bothered to change them, which seems to be an inevitability.

I am staying in the UK with my family, and that's it. That's the only way to know for sure that we will not get cancelled.

How could they call little Arthur's hell a 'happy household'?

READING about the terrible, tragic details of the last few days and weeks of little Arthur Labinjo-Hughes's life is beyond distressing.

As a mother of two children and knowing I would die for them, reading about how Arthur was treated by those who should have been there to love, cherish and look after him is very hard to understand.

It actually makes me feel physically sick. How can anyone hurt an innocent child, let alone their own son or stepson?

It is simply unbearable to think about a little six-year-old in deep distress, sleeping alone on the floor, shouting out loud to himself that nobody loves him, and

nobody will feed him. He knew all too well that he was powerless in the hands of the evil father and wicked stepmother who were sadistically abusing him – and relishing in that fact.

Thomas Hughes and Emma Tustin exchanged multiple twisted messages with each other, with Hughes instructing Tustin on what she should do to him, and her sending him recordings of Arthur's obvious distress.

The poor boy was utterly dependent upon these two despicable characters for everything – including food and love – and he knew they were not going to give it to him.

The focus has been on Tustin – the epitome of an evil stepmother – who dished out much of the abuse, including the final blow that killed Arthur, by then thin and weakened by months of

starvation and salt poisoning. She rightly got at least 29 years in prison for his murder. I would have given her more.

But it was his father who moved Arthur into the home of a woman who had already had two children taken away from her by social services and who failed abjectly and consistently to protect him from her violence.

How can a father stand by and see his son abused like this? The blame lies with Hughes but he will have 21 years – handed down to him for manslaughter – to ponder on that during every waking moment in his prison cell.

Neither of them should ever come out of jail as far as I am concerned. They are both monsters.

This story is so disturbing and horrifying that it is actually painful to read.

We all owe a debt of thanks to the jury who had no choice but to listen and watch the appalling details. We should thank them for their service.

There are three parts to this story. The first is the sadistic perpetrators.

There is also the fact that lockdown allowed them the cover they needed to carry on with their cruelty, unseen and unnoticed by teachers or neighbours.

How many other Arthurs did these lockdowns create?

It hardly bears thinking about and truly is the rotten side to this rotten pandemic.

Social workers had multiple chances – and they failed

But perhaps the worst of this story is how easily social services were tricked into not intervening.

Arthur's actual mother is in prison, but his grandmother, Madeleine Halcrow, a nurse, had her suspicions about what was going on.

She emailed pictures of Arthur's bruising to Solihull Council in April last year. But when she followed up with the police to find out what had been done, she was told Tustin's house had appeared clean and tidy, and therefore they concluded that he could not be at risk.

When social services did go to visit, they quizzed Arthur about his bruising but were fobbed off by his statement – fed to him by Tustin, and one of Tustin's other sons – that it had been caused by a play-fight with boxing gloves.

The social worker's conclusion – despite Arthur's own grandmother raising her concerns and the fact that Tustin had had two children removed from her care – was that it was a "happy household".

It beggars belief.

I am sure that social workers were overstretched during lockdown. But the idea that because a family has a clean and tidy house there cannot be abuse going on inside it is laughable.

It should not take a trained social worker to know that.

They had multiple chances to see that something was wrong and to intervene – and they failed to.

The role of the authorities needs to be questioned. How many other young people are in this position, not being protected?

The system set up to protect has failed to stop the shocking suffering that ultimately cost Arthur his life.

After the deaths of Victoria Climbié and Baby P, we were told this would never happen again. But it has.

Surely this is a base test of society – and our social care system – and it has failed once again.

I'M BACK ON TRACK

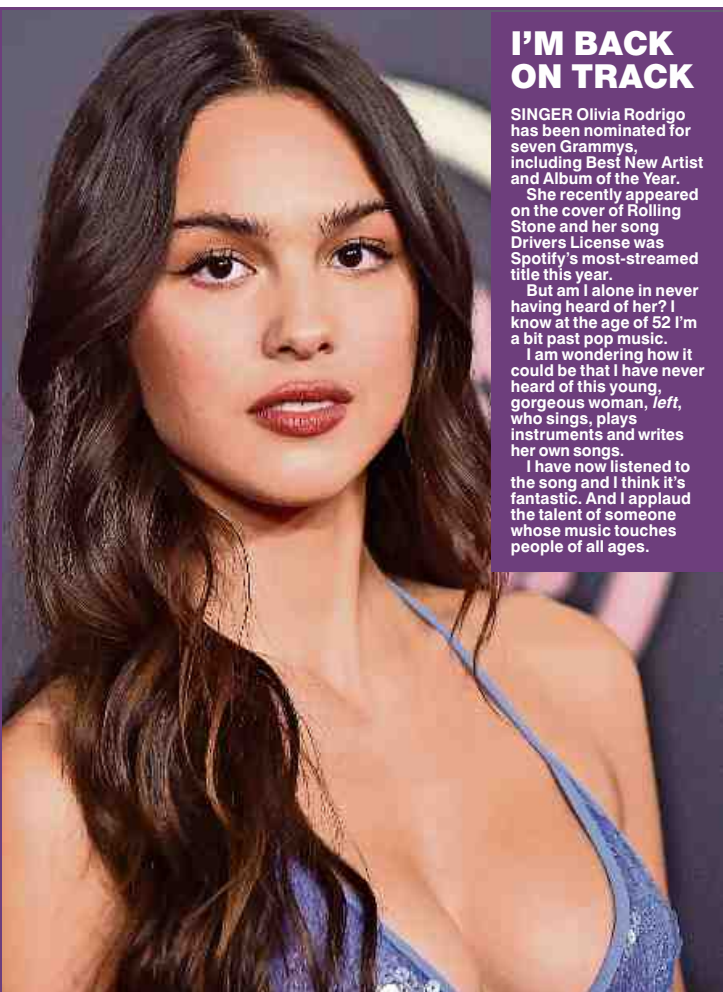
SINGER Olivia Rodrigo has been nominated for seven Grammys, including Best New Artist and Album of the Year.

She recently appeared on the cover of Rolling Stone and her song Drivers License was Spotify's most-streamed title this year.

But am I alone in never having heard of her? I know at the age of 52 I'm a bit past pop music.

I am wondering how it could be that I have never heard of this young, gorgeous woman, left, who sings, plays instruments and writes her own songs.

I have now listened to the song and I think it's fantastic. And I applaud the talent of someone whose music touches people of all ages.



RISING... phone fraud

ALWAYS ASSUME A SCAM

I DON'T know about you, but if either of my children were in trouble and needed me, I would not hesitate in doing whatever I could to help them.

And that includes sending them cash, if I was able, if they were in a tight spot.

I'm pretty sure I am not alone in that, which is why it is particularly depressing to hear about a new kind of scam in which fraudsters are tricking victims into handing over thousands of pounds by posing as their children on WhatsApp.

Criminals dial a random telephone number claiming to be a needy son, daughter or family friend in what officers are terming "hello mum" and "hello dad" frauds.

The line they use is one most parents are familiar with – they've lost their phone so they are texting from a friend's number.

Ripped off

They then ask for money to purchase a new device, or to urgently pay a bill.

This is a step on from scammers posing as banks or government organisations to trick people into handing over their financial details – a kind of crime that escalated over the pandemic, and one we all became wise to.

But a son or daughter in need?

Most of us would drop everything, right?

We all like to think we would never fall for a scam but increasingly there are stories of educated, sensible people being ripped off and having thousands of pounds stolen.

I am sorry to say that my new approach is that we must all presume that everything is a scam unless you know for sure otherwise.

Obviously, the easiest solution is just to give whoever they are claiming to be a ring.

But the real people to worry about are older folk who really don't understand technology in the same way that younger people do – and who are perhaps less cynical.

ROYALS BASHER MISSES SHOWS



Under pressure... BBC presenter Amol Rajan

BBC 'hide host'

AMOL Rajan failed to host two Radio 4 Today programmes as controversy raged over his royal TV documentary.

And the presenter's two-part series has "severely jeopardised" plans to line him up as the new BBC political editor, sources say.

Rajan, 38, was due to host the flagship Today programme on Tuesday and Wednesday – but he did not appear amid the backlash over his investigation, The Princes And The Press.

A comment piece in which he called the Duke of Edinburgh a "racist buffoon" and Prince Charles "scientifically illiterate" also emerged from his days on the Independent newspaper where he later became editor aged just 29.

It comes as Laura Kuenssberg, 45, is reportedly quitting as BBC political editor, with Rajan lined up as replacement.

A source said: "There's a feeling that Amol's broadcast meant he needed some time off for it all to cool down."

"He was scheduled to appear but he did not."

"This has been a big controversy for the BBC. The subsequent outrage over past comments have only fuelled it and made things worse."

"The political editor role was something he was

Job... Kuenssberg



SPY JET ALERT

RUSSIA said it escorted a US spy plane away from its borders – amid a new warning that Vladimir Putin plans to invade Ukraine in early 2022.

A video claims to show Su-27 and Su-30 fighter jets seeing off an American RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft over the increasingly tense Black Sea.

Pictures also show Russian military drills in regions close to Ukraine including Voronezh and Belgorod.

It comes as the Washington Post claimed US intelligence believes the Kremlin intends to deploy 175,000 troops against Ukraine early next year.

DAUGHTER OF BEHEADED



EXCLUSIVE by
BEN GRIFFITHS
Executive Features Editor

WHEN Bethany Haines' dad was brutally executed by the IS terrorist known as Jihadi John in Syria, she barely knew where the country was.

Now the daughter of British aid worker David, who was killed in September 2014, has painstakingly pieced together her father's final days.

She has used information from local police, fellow hostages and testimony of other terrorists – and believes she knows the location of his final resting place.

Bethany has "longitude and latitude co-ordinates", which pinpoint a spot in the hills just outside the town of Raqqa.

And in an exclusive interview, she has told for the first time how she is determined to bring "something of him home".

The 24-year old also hit out at the Foreign Office, saying she felt she had been kept in the dark while he was an IS captive and during her crusade after his death.

She told us: "I want to bring something of my dad home and I'm now starting to find out the answers to all the questions I have."

"I've found out where he was, what he was doing, who he was held by, the treatment he was getting. I believe I know his final resting place."

'It was a living hell'

"I feel the Foreign Office hasn't helped me, in fact they knew all these answers from very early on and they just didn't tell us."

"There is a lot of anger there. I want to go to Syria as soon as I can to bring some of his remains home."

Today Bethany tells how she recently locked gazes with one of her dad's captors at a trial in the US, wants face-to-face meetings with his other tormentors and turned down a meeting in Syria with IS bride Shamima Begum – saying "there would have been violence if I'd met her".

The video of gaunt and pale David, 44, kneeling next to knife-brandishing British-born terrorist Mohammed Emwazi, horrified the world in September 2014.

In his chilling last words to the camera, David, from Perth, declared he held then-Prime Minister David Cameron "entirely responsible for my execution" and said he had been let down by "our Parliament's selfish decisions".

Bethany has given us permission to use the last image of her dad alive.

Ex-RAF man David had travelled to some of the world's most dangerous places.

So when he told Bethany he was going to Turkey on an aid mission in January 2013 she was unconcerned.

Then a 15-year-old student, said explained: "You go on holiday there, so what could be the problem?"

"I never dreamed it would be the last time I'd see him." The next month her mum told her he had been kidnapped in Syria.

Bethany said she and her family were then plunged into a "living hell" as she claims the Foreign Office refused to give them any detail about his safety or whereabouts.

She was even forbidden from talking about his kidnap to anyone as security services



feared her dad's past in the RAF may get back to her captors and make him a more valuable hostage.

She said: "We were left with no information. No one supported us."

"We didn't know whether he was alive or dead. It was hell."

"I just wanted to grab a gun and go to Syria and grab him back. I was getting into trouble at school, I was constantly on my phone, constantly checking the news to make sure he was alive."

"My teachers had no idea the pain I was going through

because I couldn't tell them."

"We were initially told it was a criminal gang holding him, no one had heard of IS then."

"The Foreign Office were saying, 'We're getting David out'. Then the first hostage video came out."

On August 19, 2014, a video emerged of US journalist James Foley being beheaded.

He was killed by IS fighter Mohammed Emwazi, nicknamed Jihadi John because he was part of a four-man cell called The Beatles due to their British accents. Fellow writer Steven Sotloff was killed two weeks later.

It was on September 13, 2014,

that Bethany learned of the news she had been dreading.

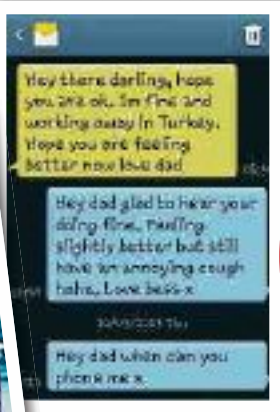
She said: "We knew my dad had been held by the same people as the murdered men. But nothing prepared me for what happened. Mum told me, 'There's a video that appears to show your dad's death in the Syrian desert'."

She steeled herself to watch, and said: "I knew immediately it was him. I was struck by how calmly my dad spoke. It was like he'd accepted his fate. I was proud of him."

Instead of giving in to her grief, Bethany threw herself into getting answers – launching a crusade to piece together his final days and bring home

I.S. HOSTAGE HUNTS FOR HIS REMAINS

LAST CONTACT . . .
message Bethany sent to
her dad around the time
he was kidnapped



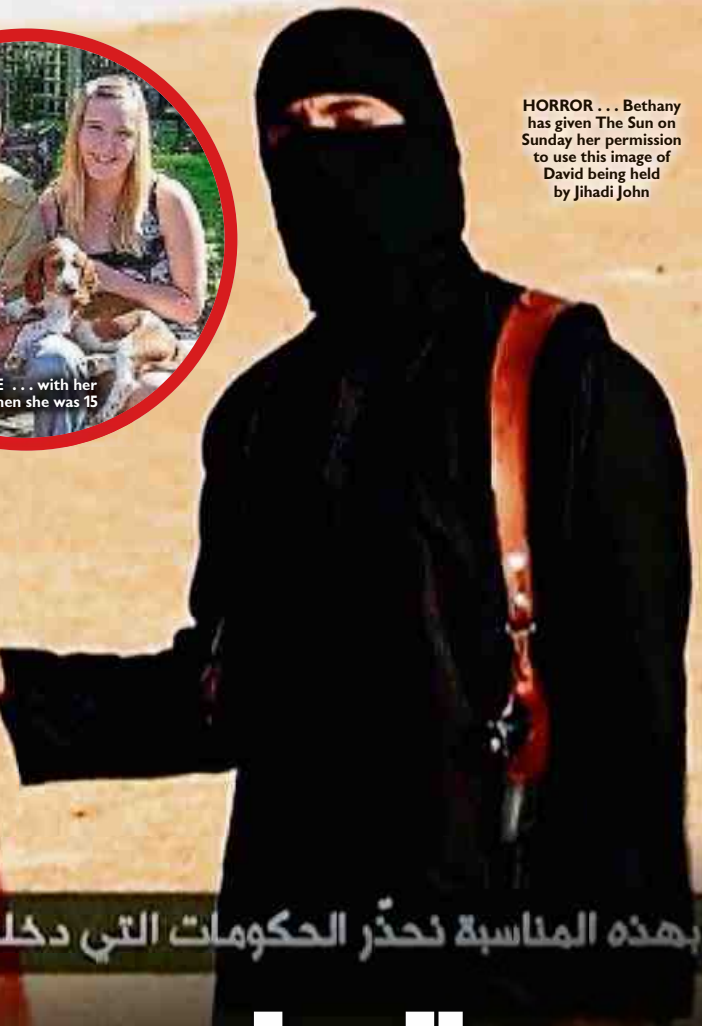
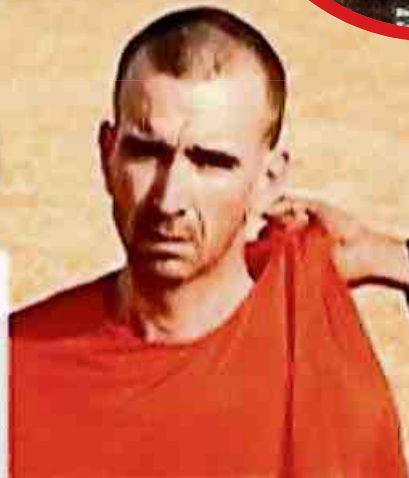
CLOSE . . . with her
dad when she was 15

HORROR . . . Bethany
has given The Sun on
Sunday her permission
to use this image of
David being held
by Jihadi John



HUGS . . . David holds
daughter Bethany
when she was five

ديفيد كاوثورن هاينز
(بريطاني)
David Cawthorne Haines
(British)



وبهذه المناسبة نحذر الحكومات التي دخلت في تحالف الشر ضد الدولة الإسلامية

I know where dad's buried. I want to bring something of him home

his remains. She said: "In the absence of much help from the Foreign Office I started my work from scratch.

"Where was Syria? I looked at their civil war, Islam as a religion. I really dug into IS. "Before I knew it I had maps all over my wall, terror suspects' faces. It looked like a police investigation room. Without it, I might not be here today. It gave me a purpose."

Bethany has since met his fellow hostages, spoken to Syrian police and travelled to the country in which her dad died to build up a picture of his final weeks.

Speaking about it for the first time, Bethany, who has

a sister Athea, 11, said: "I've put together a timeline of what Dad was doing almost every day of his captivity.

"I learned there was waterboarding and electric shocks. I know the locations where he was held.

Final resting place

"I know he did yoga, made a chess board, and I found out that every day he would sit alone for an hour.

"One fellow hostage told me, 'That was his time with his girls.'" Bethany believes she has pinpointed her dad's final resting place in the hills outside Raqqa.

On a trip to America to

see Mohammed Emwazi's fellow captor El Shafee "Jihadi George" Elsheikh face terror charges last month, she learned he had told his lawyers what had happened to the bodies of hostages.

Bethany is fighting to get full access to his testimony.

She said: "I'm certain I know the longitude and latitude co-ordinates of where his ashes or remains are now. I do fear that his body was burned.

"Elsheikh said in court, about another of the hostages, that their remains were burned because the ground was too hard to dig a grave. My dad was killed in Sep-

tember, when the ground is very hard, and it's most likely his remains were burned.

"They are in the hills just outside Raqqa. There are loads of mines and sleeper IS cells there but I don't care. I want to go and bring something of my dad home."

At the court case she stared Elsheikh straight in the eye.

It has made her want to meet all the surviving terrorists to ask about her dad. She said: "I wanted to show Elsheikh I wasn't scared. I have no fear of meeting any of them.

"Emwazi was killed in an air strike in 2015. I was delighted then but now I

wish I could have got to him to find out more about Dad."

She would also like to meet disgraced British IS bride Shamima Begum, who went to join the terror outfit at 15 and is now, aged 22, still in Syria but trying to return to Britain.

Bethany said: "When I was last in Syria I was offered the chance to meet Begum.

"But I told them that I'd be so angry I'd probably perform a WWE wrestling move on her. But now I'd love to meet her and pull her arguments apart. I don't believe she wasn't more involved."

Bethany also wants a change in the law on how

British hostages and their families are treated by the Foreign Office and the security services.

She said: "A British national is going to be kidnapped again and I don't want any family to go through what we did in terms of not knowing anything. It ripped our family apart. There should be better protocols for telling all immediate members of the family what is happening."

A Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office spokesman said: "Our consular teams have been in constant contact with the victim's family to keep them informed of progress."

SO HERE IT IS... Very Christmas

FAVOURITE XMAS SONG

Fairytale Of New York – The Pogues, right
All I Want For Christmas Is You – Mariah Carey
Last Christmas – Wham!



POLL REVEALS FAVES

WE will soon be sitting back to enjoy those seasonal family traditions.

But with 20 days to go until Santa arrives, just what is it that ticks the festive boxes across the nation?

YouGov has more than half a million polls on its database. Using the most recent, NICK McGRATH reveals what people think are the key ingredients when celebrating Christmas.



FAVE XMAS LUNCH
Turkey
Chicken
Veggie option



Obsession... Shilton

Shilton's save for gambler addict 2

By LEN READ

FOOTBALL legend Peter Shilton saved the lives of two suicidal gambling addicts by speaking out about his own fixation, his wife has revealed.

The 72-year-old, the most honoured England player with 125 caps, told in his book *Saved* how a 45-year battle with betting nearly destroyed him.

Shilton co-wrote it with wife Steph, 53, who told a magazine: "We've had a lot of people coming forward, including two young men who were at a suicidal point."

"As a result of listening to Pete talk about his story on TV, they have opened up to their loved ones and they are no longer in that place."

Shilton, whose 31-year career ended in 1997, said: "That was the ultimate thing for me. Gambling takes over your life."

The Shiltons, who live in Mersea Island, Essex, want an end to gambling ads in football.



Test... breathalyser

Boozer's ban over 4x4 cop car crash

By JAMES SOMPER

A DRINK-driver who crashed his Land Rover into a cop car has been banned for 20 months.

Francis Saunders careered into the side of the police vehicle – tearing a wheel from his 4x4.

The 54-year-old was arrested at the scene at 11.30pm on the B4042 near Brinkworth, Wilts, in October.

A breath test found 68 micrograms of alcohol. The legal limit is 35.

Saunders, from Royal Wootton Bassett, admitted drink-driving at Swindon magistrates court.

As well as the road ban, he was fined £416.

Wiltshire Police said they have launched a drink and drug driving campaign to run throughout December "to target those motorists who pose a huge risk to themselves and the lives of others."

"If you are suspicious of someone driving under the influence, then please call 101."

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TOP CHOCs

Fave Quality Street – The Purple One
Fave Celebrations – Malteser Teaser
Fave Roses – Hazel In Caramel
Fave Cadbury Heroes – Twirl

HOW XMASSY DO YOU FEEL ON DECEMBER 1?

Not Christmassy At All – 35%
Not Very Christmassy – 36%
Somewhat Christmassy – 35%
Very Christmassy – 4%

FAVE BOOKS FOR KIDS' PRESENTS

Famous Five books – Enid Blyton
Alice In Wonderland – Lewis Carroll
Charlie And The Chocolate Factory – Roald Dahl



FAVE MOVIE

Elf, starring Will Ferrell, left
Home Alone
Love Actually

WHEN IS IT OK TO START SAYING 'MERRY CHRISTMAS'?

Mid-Dec – 30%
Week of Xmas – 28%
From Dec 1 – 21%

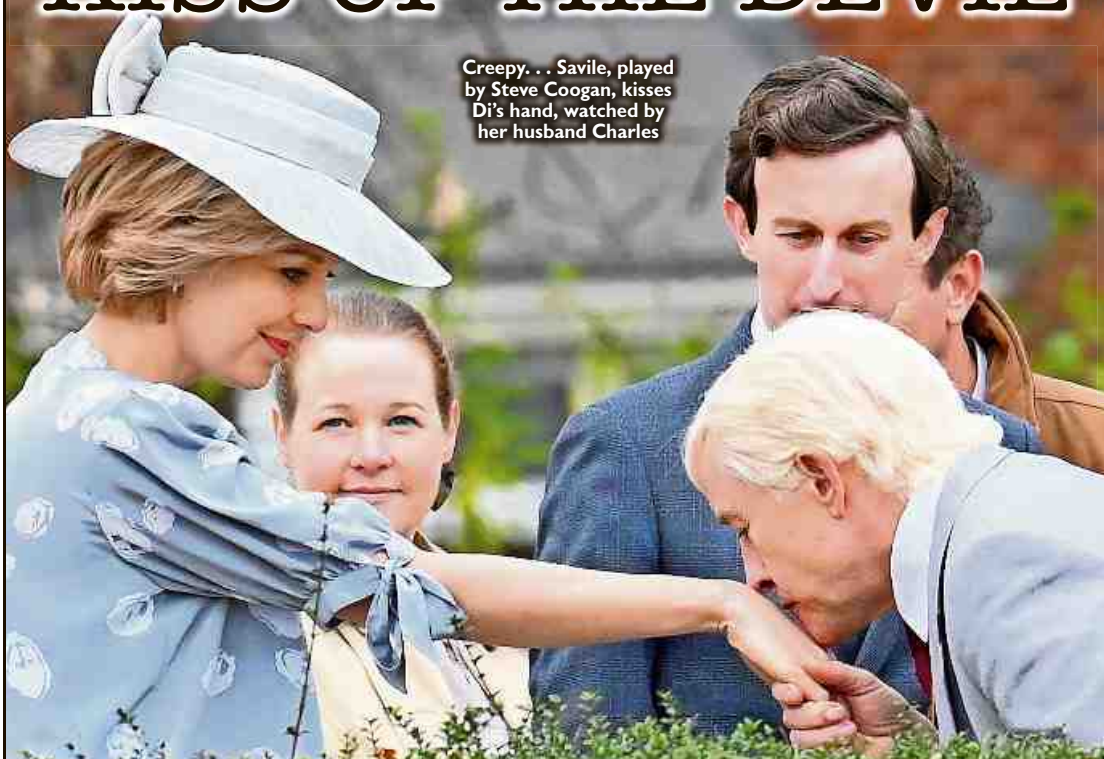
THE EARLIEST YOU'VE BOUGHT PRESENTS?

November – 28%
Sept or Oct – 17%
December – 14%



Flashback...
Savile with royal
duo on 1983 visit

KISS OF THE DEVIL



Creepy... Savile, played
by Steve Coogan, kisses
Di's hand, watched by
her husband Charles

EXCLUSIVE by STEPHEN MOYES

SICKO Jimmy Savile bends to kiss Princess Diana's hand in a scene from BBC drama *The Reckoning*.

The creepy encounter is a recreation of their meeting when she and Prince Charles visited Stoke Mandeville Hospital in 1983.

It later emerged that showbiz paedophile Savile had targeted vulnerable patients at the hospital in Aylesbury, Bucks, in 1983.

Steve Coogan was filmed in Manchester playing the Jim'll Fix It host, who befriended the royals and celebrities, for *The Reckoning* which will chart his early life and rise to fame.

Savile died aged 84 in 2011 and was later revealed to be one of Britain's most prolific sex offenders.

The BBC has been criticised for making the drama but claims it will give a voice to his victims.

In spotlight
... Coogan
as Savile



Picture: PICTURES: ZENPIX / MCPix

EXCLUSIVE

IT'S A DIVE DIVE DIVE

Deterrent...
HMS Vanguard



59 nuke sub crew axed over drugs

By MICHAEL HAMILTON

FIFTY-nine Royal Navy nuclear submarine crew have been kicked out in the past four years for taking drugs, official figures show.

The Ministry of Defence said sailors tested positive for cocaine, ecstasy, cannabis, steroids and benzodiazepine.

It raises security concerns as part of the ten-strong fleet carries the UK's nuclear deterrent.

The Ministry of Defence says seven submariners failed tests this year, on top of 52 in the previous three years.

It is believed some were on Vanguard-class vessels, armed with Trident nuclear missiles.

There are four in the fleet, with one constantly at sea to keep the nation's nuclear deterrent available round-the-clock.

BBC drama *Vigil*, with Suranne Jones, recently depicted a murder and drug use on one.

The 59 crew were among a total of 350 Navy personnel axed over drugs in the same period.

The MoD said that no drugs have been found on a submarine in the last three years.

A Navy spokesperson said: "The Royal Navy has a zero-tolerance policy towards the misuse of drugs. This policy is in place to ensure that operational effectiveness is not compromised."

mike.hamilton@thesun.co.uk

FRY BOOK TRIBUTE

ACTOR Stephen Fry has narrated an audiobook in memory of a six-year-old girl who died from a rare cancer.

Ruby Stewart lost her battle against rhabdomyosarcoma last year.

Her courage inspired neighbour Derek Sword, 54, to write *The Unicorn Who Saved Christmas* following a trip

to Lapland Ruby made with parents Claire and Andy of Inchure, Perthshire.

The book tells of a unicorn called Ruby who helps Santa deliver presents.

Derek approached Fry's agent and said the star "amazingly" agreed to narrate it. Sales go to a research fund named after Ruby.



SEASONAL film fave *Gremlins* had several scenes cut to make it more family-friendly - including one where the critters beheaded Billy's mum.

CRACKERS

JEW-HATER JAILED

A RACIST who used his spare bedroom to create online videos celebrating far-right terrorism has been jailed.

Richard Hesketh, 36, dressed up as an offensive caricature of a Jewish man to stream anti-Semitic footage which was viewed by millions.

He was arrested and his home

searched after the Community Security Trust charity reported him to police.

But Hesketh, of Middleton, Gtr Manchester, continued streaming offensive material even while under investigation.

He admitted seven counts of inciting racial hatred and was jailed for four years at Manchester crown court.

THE Sun SAVERS



sunsavers.co.uk Instagram: @sunsavers Facebook.com/thesunsavers

Edited by LEAH MILNER

DEAL OF DAY

TESCO is offering Clubcard holders 50 per cent off its large beef roasting joint with basting fat, reduced from £12 to £6 per kg.
SAVE: £6 per kg



CHEAP TREAT



GRAB a bottle of The Infusionist spiced biscuit gin liqueur 50cl, £8.99, from Aldi.

Be a wrap star

MY TOP HINTS ON SAVVY GIFT PRESENTATION



PARCEL FORCE... give your gifts some glamour without spending big

FEW festive sights are more satisfying than a pile of beautifully wrapped presents under your Christmas tree.

But if you go all-out on fancy paper, ribbons, bows and gorgeous gift tags, you can end up spending a pretty penny.

Here is how to get your wrapping done for less...

LEFTOVERS: Before buying new, have a root around the house and dig out odds and ends of wrapping paper and gift bags you already have.

SAVE: £5-£10

By ESTHER SHAW

BROWN PAPER: Re-use the brown packing paper that comes with Amazon parcels. Not only will you save money, you will be doing your bit for the environment too. Alternatives include newspaper, tissue paper and old maps.

MISTLETOE AND TWINE: Jazz up plain wrapping paper with some colourful twine. You can get 27 metres of red-and-white twine for just £2 from Hobbycraft.

IN FOR A POUND: Pick up wrapping paper at rock-bottom prices from discount stores. At Poundland you can get a whopping 12 metres for just £1.

ALL WRAPPED UP: It is easy to be lazy and waste lots of paper unnecessarily. But by wrapping gifts efficiently and

saving pieces that are big enough to wrap other presents, you won't need to buy as much.

GRAB A DEAL: B&M is doing three-for-£5 on its Christmas gift ribbon range, usually £2 each.
SAVE: £1

CRAFT A MESSAGE: Make your own gift tags out of plain card and get the kids to decorate with stencils and glitter.

SAVE: £1-£2

HIT THE SALES: Remember to pick up wrapping paper in January, when it is often heavily discounted.

●Prices correct at time of going to press. Deals and offers subject to availability.

TOP SWAP



£10

DRIFT off to a good night's sleep with the 100ml Miramora relaxing lavender sleep mist spray, above, £10 at Holland & Barrett, or save with the Land Of Nod pillow spray 120ml, below, for just £1, from Poundland.

SAVE: £9



£1

What's new?

FRANKIE & Benny's has launched its Christmas menu, including a set menu with two courses for £16.90 and three courses for £18.90. How about a brie & cranberry burger (veggie option also available), followed by a Baileys & chocolate cheesecake?

Leah's little helper



FANCY Christmas dinner in a pie? Get ten per cent off the Pies By Post service from Mad O'Rourke's Pie Factory with code SUN10 until midnight on Monday. Visit madpiesonline.co.uk.

SHOP & SAVE



GIVE your immune system a boost with a bottle of Biotiful kefir, two for £4 at Asda.

SAVE: 50p when buying two bottles

HOT RIGHT NOW

SEND a loved one a bespoke video greeting from a celeb. Cameo is offering up to 50 per cent off selected stars until Friday.

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SPIKED & ROBBED

Dazed clubber claims scammers nicked £18,000

A CLUBBER believes crooks spiked his drink to steal £18,000 from his debit cards and online bank accounts.

Ben Gregory had his wallet and phone taken in a nightclub, realising they were gone only the next day. The 26-year-old said: "I woke up pretty dizzy, dazed, not quite sure what happened so I was

By **ANDY ROBINSON**

alarmed. I had messages on my work phone from my brother saying, 'Is everything OK because there has been an overdraft opened on our joint account'. "Alarm bells started ringing because I didn't do that." Criminals had set up two £2,500 overdrafts and made dozens of transactions from Ben's savings accounts to withdraw thousands of pounds. Ben, from Putney, South West

London, added: "I felt terrible. Over the next few days, I could not stop thinking about it. I could not sleep. Ultimately, I felt worried and vulnerable." Campaigners believe the case illustrates how fraudsters are spiking to steal money – and warned partygoers to be vigilant during the Christmas period. Police in Clapham, South London, last summer made several arrests over Ben's losses. Inspector Dave Laurie said: "Spiking is a terrible thing that

goes further than the impact on the individual. We know many incidents will go unreported." Ben received refunds from American Express, HSBC, Monzo and Revolut. The Met Police revealed they were looking into 16 incidents where men realised personal items had been stolen after getting an unlicensed taxi home. *andrew.robinson@the-sun.co.uk*



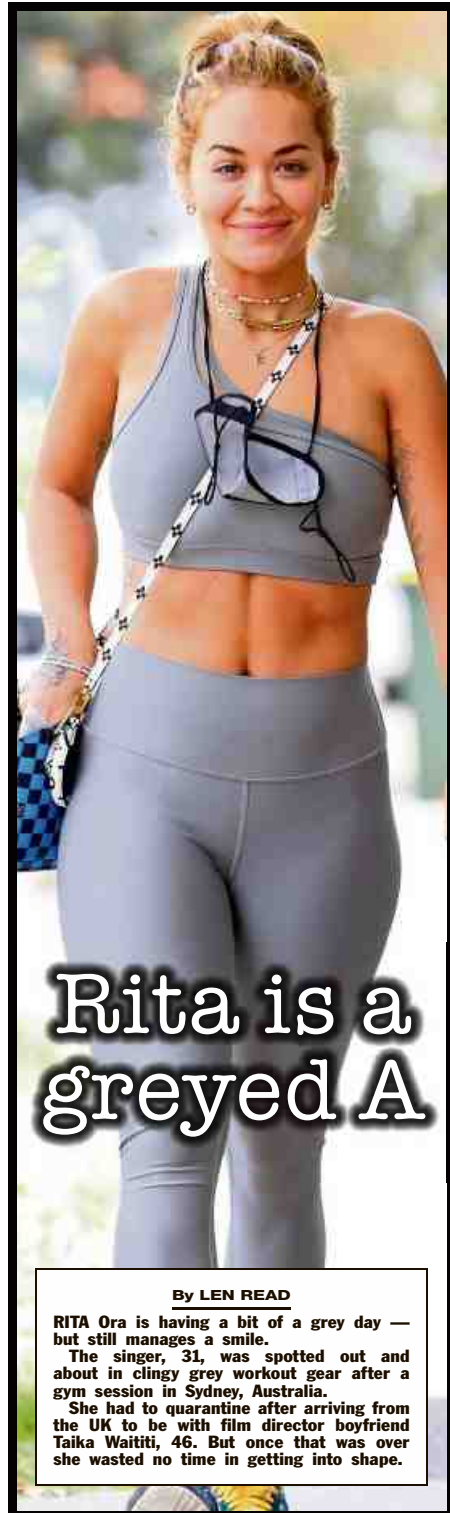
Vulnerable... Ben

Leftie C4 tag 'false'

CHANNEL 4 stands up for minorities but is not left wing, its CEO insists. The broadcaster focuses on the young and the under-represented, such as the LGBT and minority ethnic communities, says Alex Mahon, 48. She added: "If you do that you are going to be accused of being liberal. "But that is how C4 has always been. I don't think we are left-wing." It comes amid a Government consultation on plans to privatise C4.

LITTLE SISTER, 100

Frances Kompus spent her 100th birthday with sisters Julia, 104, and Lucy, 102, in Kansas, US.



Rita is a greyed A

By **LEN READ**

RITA Ora is having a bit of a grey day — but still manages a smile. The singer, 31, was spotted out and about in clingy grey workout gear after a gym session in Sydney, Australia. She had to quarantine after arriving from the UK to be with film director boyfriend Taika Waititi, 46. But once that was over she wasted no time in getting into shape.

Heating ordeal of Joey nan

EXCLUSIVE
by **JULIA ATHERLEY**

JOEY Essex's 82-year-old nan has been left without heating or hot water for almost a month. Linda Sims, also grandma to Towie sisters Chloe, Demi, and Frankie Sims, is stuck with a broken-down boiler. Frankie, 26, said the council failed to act when contacted about the



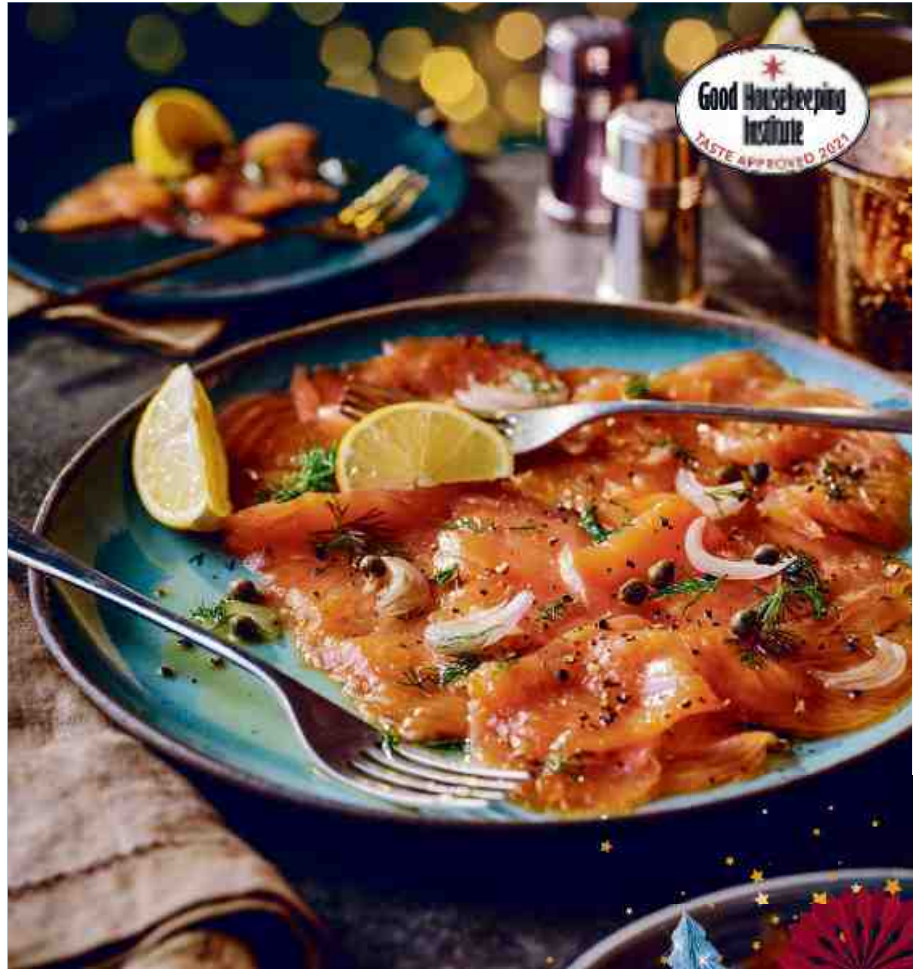
Star... Joey Essex

problem in Chigwell, Essex. She wrote: "My Nan has no heating for over 4 WEEKS!!!!!! "It's vile... when temperatures are this low!" Redbridge council blamed a "higher than usual volume of call-outs" and arranged for a new boiler to be fitted. Glam Linda has been a constant figure in 31-year-old Joey's life since his mum killed herself when he was ten.



3-in-bed 'fixes us'

THREE quarters of married couples who have had threesomes say the romps helped them stay together, a poll shows. And six in ten unmarried people who have taken part in a threesome reckon it was good for their relationship with their main partner. Nearly half of the husbands and wives polled said their biggest marital problems were over sex, the poll for swinging app 3Fun revealed.



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co op
It's what we do



Plants... inside jail cell

Inmates' blooms booster

By AMIR RAZAVI

PRISON inmates are to get flowers and plants in cells to de-stress their lives, a report says.

The move is designed to create an "enhanced sense of visual and sensory harmony".

It will be part of a "green revolution" during lockdown that has already added a picnic area, cherry trees and a wildlife pond in the grounds of Category B HMP Bedford.

It comes after previous reports noted the "stark, unlovely and inhospitable site" of the jail – built in 1845 and housing 377 inmates including sexual or violent offenders.

The Independent Monitoring Board report said: "Early feedback suggests that this has been a popular move, and there are now plans to explore the possibility of providing a plant for every prisoner to have in their room."

A source said: "It sounds lovely. Come spring, they'll be tip-toeing through the tulips."

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

Wayne Bridge
On having a mould of Celeb star wife Frankie's bottom

"It's hung upstairs. We don't put it on show downstairs or anything."

Heather Rae Young
Selling Sunset's Heather Rae Young on swapping glamour work for property porn

"I'm still trying to figure out how I'm going to tell the kids I did Playboy."

Harry Kane
Footballer to the couple who took two planes and a train for a Spurs match that was called off by snow

"I'm gutted for you."

Steve Kneeshaw
Tiger King impersonator

"I play this exotic character and live in Hull which is quite different to Joe's surroundings."

Angela Rayner
Labour deputy two hours before reshuffle

"I'm not aware of any plans... Keir would tell me first, yeah?"

Jamie Wood
Dad whose car was smashed by a rhino on a trip to a safari park

"If I'd been a bit further forward, that horn would have gone right through me."

GETTING PEASED

A festive beer made from green peas and red cabbage is a hit at £2.75 a can in Iceland.

FOOTIE LEGEND SAYS NUDITY GETS



GIN-OOH LA LA... David takes top off with Naughty Boy on I'm A Celeb



BIG MATCH... David and partner Maeva Denat

EXCLUSIVE by
NICK McGRATH

WHEN David Ginola takes his shirt off on I'm A Celeb, millions of fans – and even fellow campmate Frankie Bridge – are left hot under the collar.

But the toned ex-Tottenham and Newcastle legend has revealed he likes to ditch his kit as often as he can, even to do gardening or a beach walk.

French ace David, 54, says being in the buff helps him feel "closer to nature" and he adds: "I like walking naked, anywhere."

"Not in public places, obviously, but at home in the South of France in my villa I spend most of my day naked in the garden."

"I'm gardening naked. It's probably being back to nature, back to what we were at the beginning."

"It's for myself, not for others. I'm not an exhibitionist, I'm not showing to anyone."

"If someone is coming I will dress up but when I'm alone in my house I will walk in the grass outside, and I like to be like that."

"I would be able to walk on an empty beach like that. I think it's very good, it's not that bad. It's just nice to be like that."

Not always that easy to impress the ladies

In a fascinating, previously unseen interview which gives an often hilarious look into David's enviable life, he reveals how he loves cooking and watching Only Fools And Horses, is obsessed with buying shoes and says his favourite spot in the UK is... the 20th Century Hertfordshire town of Welwyn Garden City.

Former midfielder David – joint favourite to win I'm A Celebrity – had become a front-runner among the contestants on the ITV show before they were forced to flee Gwrych Castle in North Wales last weekend after Storm Arwen caused £1million of damage to the set.

During an early challenge called Don't Waste It, the reality stars competed for the chance to win a plate of biscuits.

Despite having no reason to, David took off his shirt, saying: "I took my top off – because I think, why not?"

Campmate Frankie Bridge, who is married to former England footie ace Wayne, later joked: "I think Wayne will be pleased that there were bars between David and me in our shower."

But David, who is dating stunning 32-year-old French model Maeva Denat, has admitted it was not always that easy for him to impress the ladies.

Recalling his first kiss as a youngster, he says: "It was such a nightmare."

"It was in a house and there was music."

"This was in a time when there was no internet or iPod or anything,

'I spend most of my day gardening with nothing on'

'If someone comes round I put clothes on but alone? No'



TOTT STAR... with Spurs in 1999

back in about 1979 or 1980 when I was about 13.

"I had a friend. She said, 'David, this girl wants to get off with you', and I said, 'Are you sure about that?' I was so scared about the approach, the first step."

"So we went to a party at this house and at a certain time of the night the music changes to slow."

"And she pushed me, and then this girl was right in front of me and I had the first kiss."

"It was like wow – it was a mix of, 'Good, I've done it, I'm a man now', but it was a different world then."

"At that age, kissing a girl at 13 was a big deal."

"It's not a big deal any more. I was brought up and educated with a certain etiquette of life."

French international David, who

made more than 200 Premier League appearances in the 1990s, became a hero to millions while in the UK. It left him with a real soft spot for the country, and he says: "I love Only Fools And Horses. I was catching up with it when I first came over to the UK."

"We used to watch that on the coach travelling to away games and I've got all seven series on DVD now."

As for his love of Welwyn Garden City, he says: "I'd heard about the coast and the Lake District. I know a bit about Scotland."

"I'd like to know more about Ireland – I'd like to go salmon fishing in Ireland, around Cork."

"But I love Welwyn Garden City. I love going there to play golf at Broomfield Hall. It's very peaceful."

"As a golfer, I used to go there

when I there a have b It's a l These French his th Maeva.

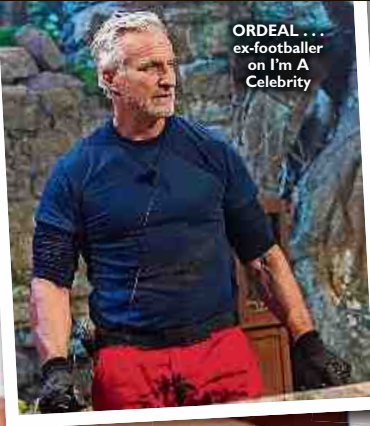
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He is a mode old soc ex-wife

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HIM CLOSER TO NATURE



ORDEAL ...
ex-footballer
on I'm A
Celebrity



BARE DARE
... David, second
left, on Loose
Women, 2017

FRENCH FANCY
... taking part in Sky
One show Naked
Britain in 2009

Why I love to get my bulbs out

Says DAVID GINOLA

... was playing for Spurs. I'd go after the game to chill there. I'd crunch on a Sunday morning. ... lovely place." ... days, home for David is his villa, where he is bringing up three-year-old daughter with ...

boat's quite big – but as big as the Queen's'

... also dad to daughter Carla, 27, ... son Andrea, a 29-year-old agent – who he had with ... Coraline.

... seems an idyllic life for David, ... offered a cardiac arrest in 2016 ... playing in a charity football ...

... heart stopped for eight minutes ... he was only saved by CPR,

... followed by an emergency six-hour operation. Nowadays he seems to have a pretty clear view of what he wants from life.

He says: "Being in the South of France, waking up in the morning, my perfect day is to have a round of golf with friends, sun, finish around 1.30, go to the beach, have a nice bouillabaisse of big grilled fish, a swim in the sea.

"Then go back, have a nice bottle of rosé with friends, nice coffee, then chat for the afternoon.

"Then another round of golf in the evening then finishing up with a nice poker game.

"I cook every day for my family at home, and my friends. We don't have set menus, I just improvise from what I've got in the fridge.

"It comes from my mum. We

were cooking every Sunday. Sunday morning was dedicated to lunch.

"I used to cook all the different dishes, like pastas and different kinds of meat or fish. I can do risottos and pasta with different sauces.

"Most of the kids don't like vegetables but you can cook veg in different ways so you give them the opportunity of a different way of eating them.

"I can do Chinese soup, Thai food. I'm pretty good at it. The most important thing is, I think I like it."

After food comes another big interest – shoes. David says: "I love shoes so I can't resist shoe shops.

"I don't want to mention any brands but I love shoes. But I don't stop at every single one."

David also reveals his biggest ever expense was buying a boat. He says: "It's quite a big one – not as big as

the Queen's yacht, it's a personal one and I don't get to use it much.

"Someone mentioned when I bought it, 'When you buy a boat, you smile twice – you smile when you buy it, and you smile when you sell it'.

"In between is just paying, paying, paying – you're paying for petrol, you're paying for tax, you're paying for repairs, you're paying for everything.

"The pleasure is about three weeks a year.

"But for me, one of my most loving memories about being on holiday is boating.

"You are surrounded by nothing. You're crossing the Med to go to Corsica, you're surrounded by water.

"You can't see any land and you think, 'This is freedom and this is amazing.'"

the **Sunday**

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO COME ...



Crunch Lunch
Pages 36-37



Mr Money
Page 38



Pets
Page 39



Motors
Pages 40-41



Puzzles
Pages 42-44



Travel
Pages 47-49



Sport
36 pages



Telly
listings in
TV Soap
mag

EVERYONE'S talking about Covid again – so today we look at ways to help you fight it, recover from it and check to see if you have antibodies to it – or have had it without even realising. Meanwhile, we've "scent" Tara on a mission to test out some festive fragrances...

you

HEALTH



with JANE ATKINSON



TESTING – I am a big fan of Forth, which does various tests, from nutrition to hormones and liver health to vitamin deficiency. It has just launched two Covid-19 antibody tests. One shows if you have had a past infection – which many people have had without realising. The other measures the presence and level of antibodies to the Covid-19 spike protein after vaccination. As immunity drops before the booster, this is great. The home finger-prick blood tests are £69 each and you get the results in two working days. Can be used after Moderna, Oxford AstraZeneca and Pfizer jabs. See forthwithlife.co.uk.

VITAMIN D – Probio7 has launched a new supplement called AB21 with 10µg of vitamin D, proven to support a healthy immune system. The gut plays a key role in our health. Home to 70 per cent of our immune cells, keeping it happy is vital. Vitamin D is pivotal in the immune and respiratory systems, main targets of Covid. (£22.99 for 30 capsules, or £18.39 on a monthly subscription, probio7.com)



MASKS – We have to wear them again... but some are better than others. The Silver Life face covering, recommended by the World Health Organisation, is made from a silver-based material proven to prevent airborne microbial infections. Environmentally friendly, recyclable and super-comfortable. Plus – the bit I love – it has antimicrobial properties, so will not create a buildup of the bacteria that cause skin blemishes. (£33.44 for four, silverlifemasks.com)



BEAUTY

with TARA LEDDEN



BUDGET – Beauty Pie Une Balade En Forêt (£29 for 50ml for members, beautypie.com): Complete with a vegan-friendly faux-leather carry case, this looks like a perfume worth three times the price.



The good news is, it smells like it too. Festive notes of balsam fir and amber in this spicy unisex scent evoke a frosty forest walk, and it feels like taking a breath of fresh air. Slightly too masculine for me but would make a great gift for the man in your life.

MID-RANGE – Molton Brown Jubilant Pine & Patchouli eau de toilette (£85 for 100ml, moltonbrown.co.uk): With notes of juniper, cinnamon and fresh pine, the limited-edition spritz smells like a G&T by the tree on Christmas Eve. Ideal for a moment's escape in the ever-stressful lead-up to the big day. The addition of vanilla and suede notes gives a warm edge to the clean scent that makes it comforting and rather more-ish. A true gender-neutral staple that is perfect for the winter months.



LUXURY – Carolina Herrera Good Girl Superstars eau de parfum (£98 for 80ml, theperfumeshop.com): The cocktail of cocoa, tonka, almond and coffee makes this legendary perfume as addictive as my morning flat-white, but without the caffeine withdrawal. Zesty notes of bergamot and lemon keep the rich scent on the right side of sickly... which is just as well, as it lasts for ever! If that wasn't enough, the seasonal sparkly silver stiletto looks great on my dressing table too. My favourite.



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the Sunday

These recipes won't let the sides down

Mrs Crunch

GREAT VALUE RECIPES IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Goose-fat garlic roast potatoes

Serves four – 66p per serving

Prep time: 20 minutes

Cooking time: 1 hour

YOU NEED:

500g Maris Piper potatoes, peeled and quartered
5 tbsp goose fat
4 cloves of garlic, unpeeled
Salt, to taste

METHOD: Preheat oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas 7. Place the potatoes in a large saucepan filled with cold water and a pinch of salt. Bring to the

boil and cook for 10 minutes.

Drain the potatoes in a colander, shaking them well, then place in a baking dish.

Heat the goose fat in a pan until just melted. Pour it over the potatoes and toss well to coat. Add the cloves of garlic. Roast the potatoes for 45 minutes, turning them occasionally until golden and crispy.

Season the roast potatoes with salt and serve hot. The garlic will be soft inside and can be eaten once pushed out of the skins.



Honey mustard parsnips

Serves four – 59p per person

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cooking time: 40 minutes

YOU NEED:

4 parsnips
1 tbsp olive oil
1 tbsp honey
½ tsp grain mustard
¾ tsp sea salt
Ground black pepper, to taste

METHOD: Preheat oven to 230C/fan 220C/gas 8. Top and tail the parsnips, cutting any larger ones in half lengthways.

Add them to a large roasting tin with the olive oil, honey, mustard and seasoning. Roast for 40 minutes, turning halfway until golden.

TIP

WHY not a sprig of rosemary to the oil for some extra flavour?

TIP

ADD a handful of thyme leaves before cooking.

DON'T MISS Mrs Crunch PULLOUT EVERY THURSDAY

● Lifestyle ● Money ● Motors
● Puzzles ● Deidre ● Travel



THERE is nothing better than a Sunday roast with family and friends. With British beef roasting joints on special offer at Morrisons, now is the perfect time to rustle up a feast. Here are some fantastic side-dishes that are perfect served with a roast of beef, lamb, pork ... or yes, even turkey!



Easy cauliflower cheese

Serves six – 47p per serving

Prep time: 5 minutes

Cooking time: 45 minutes

YOU NEED:

1 medium sized cauliflower
60g butter
60g plain flour
1 tsp Dijon mustard
450ml semi-skimmed milk
Salt and pepper, to taste
50g Parmesan cheese, grated
50g mature Cheddar cheese, grated

METHOD:

Preheat the oven

to 220C/fan 200C/gas 6. Wash the cauliflower and remove the outer leaves.

Break the cauliflower into large florets. Place in a large pan and add enough cold water to cover the thick stalk and boil for six minutes.

Over a low heat, gently melt the butter in a small saucepan and add the flour and mustard. Use a whisk or wooden spoon to mix them together.

Pour in a little of the milk and whisk or stir continuously. When the mixture has thickened, add more milk but keep stirring. Continue to do this until the sauce has thickened but is still pourable. Add the grated Parmesan and stir well. Season with salt and black pepper.

Drain the cauliflower and place in an oven-proof dish. Pour the cheese sauce over the cauliflower. Sprinkle with grated Cheddar then bake in the oven for 20-25 minutes or until the cheese has turned golden-brown.

TIP

DOUBLE the ingredients to serve as a main meal with some crusty bread.

British Beef Roasting Joint

£5.99
per kg



More deals
in store

Morrisons

Make Good Things Happen

Lunch



Pan-fried Brussels sprouts with garlic butter & Parmesan

Serves four – 27p per serving

Prep time: 10 minutes

Cooking time: 15 minutes

YOU NEED:

4 tbsp salted butter
2 cloves garlic, chopped
16 Brussel sprouts, trimmed and halved
4 tbsp grated Parmesan cheese
Ground black pepper, to taste

METHOD: Heat a frying pan that has a lid over a medium heat.

Melt the 2 tbsp of the butter and add the garlic. Cook for 30 seconds, stirring to stop it burning.

Add another 1 tbsp of butter and the sprouts, cut-side down. Cover with the lid and cook until golden-brown, 4-6 minutes.

Flip the Brussels sprouts and add the last tbsp of butter. Cover again and cook until the other side is browned, typically about 3 more minutes.

Transfer to a serving plate. Sprinkle with Parmesan and black pepper.



TIP

INSTEAD of cheese, try garlic along with the zest and juice of half a lemon.

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

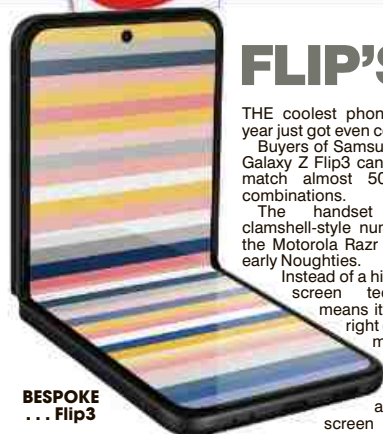


FOR YOUR NEAREST MORRISONS STORE PLEASE VISIT WWW.MORRISONS.COM OR TELEPHONE 0345 611 6111

Morrisons.com

Available in majority of stores. Subject to availability. Offers/prices may vary online and at Morrisons Daily. Excludes Gibraltar. British Beef Roasting Joint is Vacuum Packed. Serving suggestion.

w/c 29/11/21



BESPOKE
... Flip3

FLIP'S COLOUR CODING

THE coolest phone of the year just got even cooler.

Buyers of Samsung's new Galaxy Z Flip3 can mix and match almost 50 colour combinations.

The handset is a clamshell-style number like the Motorola Razzr from the early Noughties.

Instead of a hinge, new screen technology means it can fold right down the middle of the display. It has a 6.7in screen – the

same as the biggest iPhone – when extended, but folds to half the size.

It is already a sales hit but now Samsung hopes to lure more buyers by letting them customise their phone with the Bespoke Edition.

With a choice of five colours for the front and back (blue, yellow, pink, white and black) and the option of a black or silver frame there are 49 possible combinations.

So family and friends with the same phone need never get them muddled up.

The custom option could be extended to other

Samsung phones. Its next big launch is the Galaxy S22, due in February.

This is the firm's flagship device that goes head to head with the iPhone.

But the Z Flip3 and Fold3 – which folds out like a book – are both selling more than expected. In a few years, they might be outselling more mainstream devices.

The Bespoke Edition costs £1,049, available direct from Samsung only.

You can't buy it from a network like EE or Vodafone on a monthly contract. But Samsung offers credit to get it from around £29 a month.



PICK'N' MIX ... some of the colour options

● CREWE'S Wistaston Road is the country's slowest for broadband. Clocking an average download speed of 0.24Mbps, it would take two DAYS to download a two-hour HD film there.

Research from uSwitch found the fastest street is Haul Fryn in Birchgrove, Swansea, with an average speed of 882Mbps. That means the same two-hour film could be downloaded in just 47 seconds.

The average broadband speed nationwide is 79.1Mbps.

Ernest Doku of uSwitch said: "Britain's broadband keeps getting quicker but parts of the country continue to be left behind."

"It's great to witness the increased uptake of ultrafast broadband but we don't want to see large swathes of the country left behind on shoddy connections. Of the ten slowest streets, nine could have access to faster broadband. So we urge residents to do a quick search online to see what speeds they could be getting with another provider."

REWARDS ON OFFER FOR USING LOCAL STORES FOR XMAS GIFTS



mrmoney@the-sun.co.uk

CONSUMER NEWS and PERSONAL FINANCE

mr money

EDITED BY DANIEL JONES

SPECIALIST JOURNALIST OF THE YEAR

FANCY a free stocking filler for the kids? Or a free pint after hitting the shops? Or a free steak for dinner when you get home?

Shop locally this Christmas and you could bag £25 of goodies for free as part of the American Express Shop Small scheme.

The giveaway, which started yesterday, has twice the number of local high street stores and eateries signed up this year.

And as part of Britain's biggest credit card cashback promotion, American Express will refund £5 for every £15 spent in thousands of outlets by cardholders.

Gift shops, clothes stores, mini markets, newsagents, cafes, pubs, restaurants, pharmacies and even pet shops are taking part.

Small Business Saturday yesterday kicked off the promotion, which runs until December 15.

Boosts high streets

Amex cardholders just need to register on the firm's website or app, and can then snag the free fiver off up to five times, but each one must be at a different retailer.

Go to the Amex website to see a map of stores taking part, or search for specific shop names. Or take a stroll round your neighbourhood – those taking part normally have a sign on display.

Amex run the offer twice a year – also in the summer.

They offer a few free cards, as well as their fancy ones with fees and perks. Consider applying for the Cashback card, to get money back on your spending and use it when the next Shop Small promo happens.

The Sun backs spending at small stores as it boosts high streets, the lifeblood of our communities. Thousands of small shops shut permanently due to Covid lockdowns.

And many shoppers are now quitting small town centres for big cities and malls this Christmas in a bid to recapture the metropolitan experience lost in lockdown.

Footfall in cities and malls

How to save when shopping small

AMEX CUSTOMERS

● REGISTER on the website or app to add the Shop Small discount to your card. Check the list of participating shops. Spend £15 and get a £5 statement credit. Valid in five different shops, not online.

EVERYONE

● SMALL shops have sales too, with pre-Christmas price cuts in some local stores, just like in large malls.

● Bag freebies via small shops' loyalty schemes –

including coffees, ice creams and pizzas.

● Local fruit-and-veg shops and market stalls are on average around ten per cent cheaper than supermarkets, studies show. Bowls of fruit for £1 are a popular way of saving.

● Snap up charity shop gift deals for Christmas presents. Buying pre-loved products prevents waste and young children will not care whether a present is a second-hand bargain or an expensive, brand-new product.

● Dodge delivery charges.

Remember, shopping in store avoids the courier fees that come with online shopping.

● Get a cashback credit card. Some American Express cards offer up to five per cent back for the first three months. The Lloyds Bank Mastercard offers up to 0.5 per cent cashback.

● Some banks offer customers cashback in small shop chains. Log into Halifax's website or app and add the deal to your card before spending.

GIVE AND TAKE ... reap the benefits of buying local

Shop small to save big

CASHBACK AND FREEBIES WITH AMEX

will be up three times more than in smaller towns in the run-up to the big day.

Figures from employment charity Springboard show a rise of 140 per cent on last year for city centres, versus 47 per cent for smaller towns.

A Springboard spokesman said: "Consumers will seek out the Christmas shopping experience they missed last year in city centres."

Now tens of thousands of small shops are in financial trouble.

Julie Palmer, partner at

insolvency experts Begbies Traynor, said: "Inflation, energy costs and labour availability are risk factors for many businesses."

The Federation of Small Businesses added: "Our small high street businesses need all the help they can get, so giving shoppers incentives to visit them helps."

Here, Sun Money tells you how you can boost the coffers of local stores and cash in at the same time – no matter what credit card you have in your pocket.



● **NATALIE DEMETRIOU'S** Brighton cafe survived lockdowns – and she says shopping local keeps businesses like hers going.

She set up Lost in The Lanes in 2017 but has suffered financial hits over the course of the pandemic.

The cafe helps draw locals and visitors to The Lanes, an area of small independent shops in the coastal city. Now customers are

enjoying £5 cashback on bakery treats and main meals through the American Express Shop Small promotion.

She says: "The challenges have been significant and the survival of many small businesses will come down to people returning to them."

"It's important for people to shop small. Small businesses are intrinsically linked to their community, so supporting 'small' supports us all."

IN ASSOCIATION WITH

Tails.com

paws & claws



Star of the week

NYGMA is named after one of Batman's villainous foes but the adorable tabby is a hero to owner Billy Lauper.

The three-year-old helped Billy get over the loss of his old cat Freddie, who sadly was hit by a car.

Billy, 39, who works in a record store, says: "Nygma is such a funny cat and has lots of peculiar behaviours."

"He will only eat his food if it's delivered to him on my bed and insists on sleeping on my bed. He loves other animals and is best friends with the neighbourhood fox. Even if he catches a mouse, he carries it around alive."

"Nygma was the only kitten left when I bought him and I was told he was the runt of the litter but now he is full of life."

WIN

DOG HAMPER

SANTA Claws is coming... and five lucky pups can get their paws on a festive hamper designed for dogs, worth £50.

Each hamper is bursting with toys and treats from pet brand Webbox to keep tails wagging throughout the holiday season.

Gifts include long-legged animal toys, cute sprout plush toys, mince pie squeakies, festive tug toys and yummy goodies.

See more at webbox.co.uk.

To enter, send us an email with HAMPER in the title to sundayspets@the-sun.co.uk

before December 19. T&Cs apply.



Fears over Poppy's fits

DOG COLLAPSES WORSEN

I AM concerned about my female Maltese dog Poppy, who is nearly eight and appears to be having more frequent fits.

She had four this year up until August, spaced out over a few months. But in November alone she had three, just after she recovered from kennel cough.

The fits usually occur while she is sleeping or resting. But on two occasions they have been while walking around the park. She just collapsed and went rigid on all four limbs, arched her head back and let out some almighty screeches. Another time it was after getting excited when I came home after being out for a short while.

All the incidents follow the same pattern, which lasts between 20 and 30 seconds. She then recovers within one minute. My vet has told me to monitor the fits. Can you give any more advice.

DAVE WILLIAMS
Grantham, Lincs

Sean says: Sorry to hear this Dave. Poor Poppy's fits are getting much more frequent lately, which is always a flag for concern.

You don't mention whether she's ever been on anti-seizure medication or not, but one of the criteria to start a trial would be several fits in the space of a week or so, certainly if she's had more than one in a day or if they last for more than a minute or so at a time too.

Go back to your vet and they can talk through options for further testing or a medication trial.

MY six-year-old son wants a gerbil for Christmas.

Are they the best option for a first pet? We live in a flat so I don't think a dog or a cat would be a great idea. But I am worried the gerbil may be hard work.

SARAH FOSTER
Archway, North London

Sean says: Gerbils make OK pets for kids but they are pretty hands off for small children as they are very fast and also a little delicate to handle. They are also social, so you need to keep them in same-sex pairs or groups. And they need a complex environment, preferably in a large tank where they can burrow as they do in the wild.

Perhaps a better option for a six-year-old would be a couple of guinea pigs. They do need more space as they are larger but they tolerate

West Sussex, says: "When people contact us, half the questions are about sleep – where is best, why they won't sleep, what to do when they cry and whether they should be in the bed."

"Many people try leaving their puppies to sleep alone, which can make them feel anxious and lead them crying at night. It's best to have the puppy sleeping in their owners' bedroom or set up a

temporary bed where the puppy sleeps."

As Christmas nears, she adds: "It can be stressful for puppies and young dogs, so make sure they have a quiet place to escape and that they stick to their regular routine. Let your dog meet visitors at their own pace. If you travel, take their toys and bed so they feel secure."

Get more advice at ourfamilydog.org.uk.



Pet VET
SEAN MCCORMACK

HE is on a mission to help our pets... and is here to answer YOUR questions. Sean, who is the head vet at tailored pet food firm tails.com, has helped with owners' queries for ten years. He says: "If your pet is acting funny or is under the weather, or you want to know about nutrition or exercise, just ask. I can help keep pets happy and healthy"

Send your questions with the name of your pet and your location to vet@the-sun.co.uk

handling very well, are more interactive and do cute little squeals and calls for food.

Whatever pet you choose will ultimately require most of the work from you, of course.

WE moved eight weeks ago and our adopted ex-working sprocker Herbie has started to howl every time we leave the house.

We have used a pet camera to monitor him. In some videos he just lies down howling and in others he moves about howling.

It's stressing me out and I even gave up work. It's ruling my life. He even whinges in the car so I don't take him out.

I'm at a loss. He's very clingy to me suddenly. He used to live in a barn on a farm with 22 other cockers.

SUE DAVIS
Chester

Sean says: Sounds like Herbie has a complex past and has developed separation anxiety in a bad way.

The best approach is to get a qualified animal behaviourist to get to know you and Herbie and observe you both in action. They will be able to give you specific advice and identify subtle factors that may be making the problem worse.

Look for APBC or ASAB accredited behaviourists in your area.



CARE... Justine and rescue dog Stanley

HELP HYPERACTIVE PUPS REST EASY

SLEEPLESS nights over a restless puppy?

Pet owners' group Our Family Dog found 50 per cent of new puppy owners fretted over whether they were sleeping enough.

Founder Justine Williams, 51, a former campaigns manager for the RSPCA, said other areas people need help with include puppy nipping, toilet training and separation anxiety.

Justine, from Worthing,

Mystic Meg

Visit thesun.co.uk/mysticmeg to download free apps and much more



ARIES March 21 – April 20

As love planet Venus turbo-boosts your passion profile, there's something about you everyone adores but no one can put into words. You feel the difference on every level. Single? Give a clumsy Capricorn a second chance. The way you calculate your cash chart is Uranus-inspired – and the winning ideas may be unusual.

TAURUS April 21 – May 21

The Mars part of you fires up this week to stake a claim on more equal shares. This can be in love or at work, where your strong-but-sincere stance can win others over. Passion takes you on a journey you may not expect, towards a destination linking the past to the future. Including little people in big plans warms hearts.

GEMINI May 22 – June 21

As soon as you start thinking like a winner, you feel something shift inside – that's your moon pathway lesson of the week, so shut down negative thoughts and step away from doubting voices. Fitness plans surge from so-so to sensational, thanks to energetic Mars. Love is changing and this can be so good for you.

CANCER June 22 – July 22

When you need to be braver or maybe just think bigger, Mars is there, raring to go. You can surprise yourself with how quickly you jump into a new set of shoes or speak honestly from the heart. Love-wise, your chart is partnership central and you'll be making up, making out and making special plans together.

LEO July 23 – August 23

Two fire-based planets send scorching ideas and influences through your chart and you are ready to change your home life in dramatic ways. Starring roles are shifting and you can hit the spotlight. Skills you always sensed you have are ready to break through at work too, and your love profile is eager for more.

VIRGO August 24 – September 22

You don't mince words but get right to the point. This is a work plus but positive at home too, as a deadlock ends and a delicate agreement comes closer. If you're tempted to be kind, stick with being clear instead. Calculator planet Mercury helps you gather funds, or information, so a fantasy house move starts to feel real.

LIBRA September 23 – October 23

The moon and Mars make a chalk-and-cheese team in your creative zone. This encourages you to experiment with colours, styles and projects, and you feel something deep inside unlock. A couple who have delayed a decision several times are ready to agree. If you are single, love waits close to building work.

SCORPIO October 24 – November 22

It may feel like a time-travel adventure when a face from the past appears on screen – but if you have something to say or do, seize this moment. Your chart is focused on the here and now, and showing family and friends you are there for them means so much more than just saying it. Money and "M" can make a rich mix.

SAGITTARIUS November 23 – December 21

Your sun and Mercury star team keep you on top of power games – you are thinking fast this week but also radiating goodwill. You can lead with confidence and charm, and this is what a potential partner falls for first. In a relationship? Venus values what is different in two people as much as what they have in common.

CAPRICORN December 22 – January 20

Venus, planet of looking and feeling good, is in your zodiac space and you are ready to shine as your authentic self. So follow up those style ideas, maybe by getting professional advice. The world is waiting! Love can be on your terms and in your own time, so don't be rushed. A location with a three-part name is lucky.

AQUARIUS January 21 – February 18

Saturn brings you deep personal certainty this week but don't let yourself slide into an overly stubborn stance. The least likely opportunities can yield the best results and being agile and adjustable is key. In love terms, you may dream of a special ceremony or a conversation then suddenly find it coming true.

PISCES February 19 – March 20

Talking to people about subjects you would normally avoid can be what opens up your chart. Your horizons are changing and connections you make now set a new standard for the future. If you are in love, silly games played together turn back time. If you are single, a fantasy film or story fan can be a dream lover.

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YOU CAN ALSO READ MYSTIC MEG IN FABULOUS

the **Sunday**

● Lifestyle ● Money ● Motors ● Puzzles ● Deidre ● Travel

For more motors go to thesun.co.uk/motors**biker****John Hogan****BACK IN THE BIKER GROOVE**

BIKERS usually set their watches by the annual motorcycle show at Birmingham's NEC.

At this time of year, getting out for a ride usually involves putting on every single piece of clothing you own, then wobbling around looking for somewhere that sells hot chocolate.

The best way to get a biking fix is to head to the show – which runs until December 15 – kick the tyres on the new metal for 2022 and maybe pick up a bargain or two.

This year things might feel a bit different. Most of the big manufacturers will be there – except Yamaha.

There are some great British names to look forward to – BSA, Royal Enfield, Norton, DOT, Crighton, Triumph and Ariel will all have bikes for you to stare at longingly.

Find time to take in the Triumph Speed Triple RR – there'll be a review next week – and it's as good to ride as it is to look at.

Road race fans can look forward to seeing John McGuinness back in a Honda shirt at the show. He'll make his 100th TT start in 2022 on the Fireblade, which also turns 30 next year.

Honda's Fireblade collection will be at the show and sportsbike fans will

love the 30th Anniversary retro paint on the current model.

I've been asked to take part in the Question Of Bikes challenge on the main stage tomorrow.

I'll be in a team of motorcycle journalists, lead by either James Whitham or Niall Mackenzie and with Steve Parrish as quiz master.

There'll be some Covid-related checks in order to get in, so check out motorcyclelive.co.uk for the latest details – but as you read this, the show is on and looking good.

I really missed it last year – I hope to see you there.

SECRET
Sunta**SO here we are again.**

Staring down the barrel of another Christmas where we can't see Granny or go to the pub with pals.

But there is one thing you can count on: A bit of Christmas cheer from Sun Motors.

Once again I've spent the past 12 months bagging the ultimate wishlist for car fans. Have a look at the nine brilliant prizes printed here and pick your favourite **THREE**.

Go to sunoffers.co.uk/secretsunta to enter our free draw... and you just might win one of your chosen prizes in time for Crimbo.

Thank you to my motoring PR contacts for their generosity.

Here's the prize details in full.

SKODA MTB+ MOUNTAIN BIKE, £1,353: Yes please. All-aluminium frame, Shimano bits, 12 gears,

Size M. Skoda started out making bicycles and sponsors the Tour de France. Note: The prize bike will have pedals, promise, but won't arrive before Christmas.

SILVERSTONE DRIVE EXPERIENCE FOR TWO, £418: Proper adrenaline rush. Drive a Formula single-seater as fast as you dare at the home of motorsport. This prize is for two, so who's Lewis and who's Max? Experiences from £99 at silverstone.com.

MINI CABIN TROLLEY CASES, £280: Everything Mini does is cool. One red bag, one black, worth £140 each. Quick-access compartment to fish out liquids at airport security, plus padded laptop sleeve. Size: 55cm x 35.5cm x 22cm.

MEGA TESLA CYBERTRUCK, £270: Genuine money-can't-buy Christmas gift. Why? Because it doesn't go on sale until December 28. Build a Cybertruck brick by brick (3,283 pieces). Suitable for ages 14-plus. Guarantee you finish it before Tesla produces the real thing.

PORSCHE 911 WIRELESS CHARGING PISTON, £265: Original 911 Turbo piston as a wireless charging station. Put your phone on top and a green LED light illuminates when charging. Very cool.

GABRIEL JESUS SIGNED MAN CITY SHIRT, £70: Wow. City sponsor Nissan came up trumps. Presentation box, autograph card and certificate of authenticity.

LEWIS HAMILTON LIMITED-EDITION CAPS, £84: One for you, one to pop under the tree. Lewis co-created this for the 2021 British GP and they sold out immediately. Thanks to Mercedes and the Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team.

PLAYMOBIL GOLDFINGER DB5, £70: All the gadgets, plus figures of James Bond and Oddjob. Suitable for ages 5-99. Donated by Aston Martin.

BENTLEY FRAGRANCE, £70: Promised yourself a Bentley one day? Me too. Until your ship comes in, wear this Unbreakable eau de parfum.

● Entries close at 5pm, December 10. Winners notified by December 14. But you won't know what you've won until it arrives at your door. That's the secret bit. Other T&Cs apply.

CHOOSE 3 GIFTS ENTER ONLINE AND BE LUCKY**£1,353***Mini cabin trolley bags***£280****SKODA***Skoda MTB+ mountain bike**Tesla Cybertruck***£270****£265***Porsche wireless phone charger**Gabriel Jesus signed Man City shirt**Bentley fragrance Unbreakable*



THE most popular used car is a Ford Fiesta costing £12,000. Elon Musk, the world's richest man, earns that every 1.84 seconds. Actually, he could buy FIVE in the time it takes a Fiesta to do 0-62mph. Footballer Cristiano Ronaldo needs just over an hour to afford a Fiesta. For the rest of us, it's about £160 a month on finance.

braking news



Rachel Burgess

● **ABSOLUTELY** absurd car of the week goes to Hennessey, the famed US tuner turned supercar maker, which has announced its first electric car. The SIX-wheeled grand tourer will produce around 2,400bhp, cost £2.25m and arrive in 2026. Only 105 will be made.

● **NOW** for something with three wheels. British sports car maker Morgan is readying an all-new 3 Wheeler for launch next year. The iconic open-top ditched the old 2-litre engine in favour of the fizzy 1.5-litre three-cylinder found

in the Ford Fiesta ST.

● **HOT** on the heels of Polestar 2, the electric car firm has shown a camouflaged version of – you guessed it – Polestar 3.

The large SUV will arrive here in 2023. Polestar was hived off from Volvo.

● **INTERESTED** in all things electric? Cars, bikes, motorbikes, scooters – you name it, check out Autocar's new sister brand moveelectric.com.

● Rachel is executive editor at Autocar magazine.



NISSAN has spent the best part of two years developing this Moon rover with JAXA, Japan's space agency. Are you thinking what I'm thinking? Yep, basic. I could have knocked that out with a Meccano kit in two minutes. Apparently it uses e-4ORCE technology that controls all four wheels independently. We'll see that on the Ariya EV.

EDITED BY **ROB GILL**

@robgi11UK

sun motors

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Race experience for two

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Limited-edition Lewis cap x2



Playmobil Goldfinger DB5

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ask alfie



Used car specialist

Q&A

Send your questions to motors@the-sun.co.uk

Q MY 2005 Mini Cooper has done 26,000 miles and has the Pepper Pack fitted. I am happy with the car but the new London ULEZ means I have to pay £12.50 a day when I move it. I'd like to stick with Minis, but what can I swap it for? I can't spend much as I'm out of work.

CAT DAVIDSON
Well, Cat, your Mini should be worth about six bags as it is.

That's mega-low mileage for a Cooper of that age and it'll be worth more to people outside London than to those who live in the capital or commute.

If you want a ULEZ Mini to replace it, it needs to be Euro-4 compliant as a petrol and Euro-6 if it's a diesel. The latter will be newer and more expensive, so look at Euro-4 petrol models. The good news is you can get a slightly newer Cooper ('08-'10) for about

the same money, with maybe a touch more mileage, that will be ULEZ-compliant.

Q I BOUGHT my wife a Vauxhall Zafira SRI turbo petrol automatic (1.4-litre) with 16,000 miles on the clock. She lost all power driving home, but the diagnostic check showed no faults. Any idea what happened?

ALAN BAILL
I'm a bit stumped, Al. My guess would be some

sort of turbocharging system issue. If it happens again, and when the car is in limp mode, take it to a Vauxhall dealership to see if that generates the fault code to find the problem.

Q I WANT to sell my 2017 Renault Kadjar 1.6 diesel – which is in good nick with 63,000 miles on the clock – for £8.5k. I also fancy a BMW Z4 as a weekend motor. What should I be looking out for with this car?

MARK PLUMMER
A Mark, you've massively undervalued your Reggie. A four-year-old diesel Kadjar with that mileage should be £12,500. As to the Z4, depends on what year, but they're fairly sound. Check for electrical gremlins, but other than that buy the best you can afford with a clean history and you should be OK.



READER'S CAR OF WEEK

YOU'LL probably recognise this car instantly from TV. So let's go straight to owner Simon Anderson, from Essex, who tells me: "This is my 1980 Morris Mini. I bought it in 2019, it's only done 40,000 miles and I couldn't resist wrapping the bonnet in black to make it instantly

recognisable – I love the fact it resembles Mr Bean's Mini. It puts a smile on people's faces wherever you go, you are almost recognised as a celebrity. It's also all-original, inside and out."

● Send pictures of your beloved motor, with details, to motors@the-sun.co.uk.

Three . . . Vauxhalls for £10k-£15k



2018 (68) Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SRI VX-Line Nav Black 3dr, £9,980, 23k, Crewe (motomatch.com)
All the looks of the hotter VXR model without the sky-high premiums. With a peppy 1.4-litre turbo, this low-mileage Corsa will still put a grin on your face.



2012 (62) Vauxhall Astra VXR 3dr, £12,090, 39k, SR Motors, Armadale, W. Lothian (srmotors.co.uk)
There's no performance version of the current-generation model, so this 280hp VXR might be the last hot-hatch Astra ever made here.



2017 (67) Vauxhall Insignia Sports Tourer 1.5T Elite Nav 165 5dr, £15,467, 44k, Melfon Mowbray, Leics (easton-vauxhall.co.uk)
Vauxhall no longer sells the Sports Tourer estate, so this good spec motor with the sweet 1.5 turbo is a doozy.

TODAY'S TEASER

	9		2	6		4	
4							7
1							5
	7			8			2
		2	6	3	1	4	
	4			1			6
			3		9		
2	3		7		5		8
							1

TODAY'S TOUGHIE

	4		2	8			
					4		
	1		4		2	5	6
				9	7		4
2			5				
			4	1			8
	2		1		7	4	9
					3		
	9			6	4		

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Teaser

2	9	3	6	8	4	1	5	7
5	4	6	7	9	1	2	8	3
1	8	7	5	2	3	9	4	6
4	7	9	1	6	8	5	3	2
8	6	2	3	4	5	7	9	1
3	1	5	2	7	9	8	6	4
6	5	8	4	1	2	3	7	9
7	3	1	9	5	6	4	2	8
9	2	4	8	3	7	6	1	5

Toughie

6	9	7	4	3	8	2	5	1
1	2	5	7	6	9	3	4	8
8	4	3	2	1	5	7	9	6
7	8	4	1	9	3	6	2	5
9	5	2	6	4	7	8	1	3
3	6	1	8	5	2	4	7	9
4	3	8	5	7	1	9	6	2
5	7	9	3	2	6	1	8	4
2	1	6	9	8	4	5	3	7

MINDBENDER

Hiding, indigo, modify, oddity, redial, tedium.

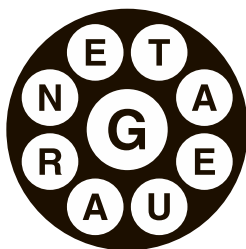
BRAINBOXER

15 (1 ski only, 2 snowboard only, 1 sledge, 3 ski and snowboard, 2 ski and sledge, 2 sledge and snowboard, 4 all three).

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO . . .



SUNDIAL



SEE how many words of four or more letters you can “dial” using the one at the centre in each word.

You can make at least one word using all of them. Don't use the letters more than once in any word.

No proper names or plurals. Words from Collins Concise Dictionary.

BRILLIANT: 33. EXCELLENT: 28.
GOOD: 20. GREAT SCORE FOR
KIDS: 15.

YESTERDAY: Acorn, adorn, cant, canto, carton, cartoon, concord, condor, contra, cordon, corn, corona, croon, darn, donor, onto, raccoon, radon, rand, rant, rondo, tarn, torn, tornado. **CONCORDAT.**

**Check today's answers by calling
0905 757 0155 before midnight.
Calls cost £1 per minute plus your
telephone company's
network access charge.**

Calls for extra clues and answers last no longer than two minutes (Sundial answers may vary). Helpline: 0333 202 3390 (9am-5.30pm). Service provider: Spoke, W1T 4HD

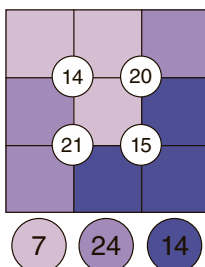
SET SQUARE

Place each of the digits 1 to 9 in the grid to make the sums work. We've started you off with two numbers. Solve the calculations in order, left to right, or top to bottom.

$\times 2$	$-$	$= 6$
$\times \square \times$	$\square \times$	
$-$	$-$	$= 3$
$+ \square \times$	$\square +$	
$+ 6$	\times	$= 120$
$= 44$	$= 36$	$= 12$

Sun SUKO®1

Enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of its four surrounding squares. Each coloured area should add up to the colour totals below.



Sunday quizword

ACROSS

- 1 Relating to a kingdom invented by
Anthony Hope (10)
- 6 People of a non-Jewish background (8)
- 12 Animated film about a deer (5)
- 13 Surname of No Doubt singer Gwen (7)
- 14 Female character in The Forsyte Saga (5)
- 15 Heavy-napped cotton twill fabric (8)
- 16 Pottery treatment (10)
- 18 Capital of the Bahamas (6)
- 20 Light bulb power (7)
- 22 Scandinavian furniture store (4)
- 25 Scottish football team (3)
- 26 Abstract design movement associated with
Victor Vasarely (2,3)
- 27 Crease-resistant synthetic fabric (9)
- 29 Branch of the armed services (inits) (3)
- 30 Spicy beef and pork sausage (9)
- 31 Old Testament father of Jacob (5)
- 32 Prog-rock group of the 1970s (3)
- 34 Napoleon's place of exile (4)
- 36 Star of Trigger Happy TV (3,4)
- 37 Hit song from Cats (6)
- 40 Country south of Morocco (10)
- 42 Harry Potter's friend (8)
- 45 River that divides Devon and Cornwall (5)
- 46 The New World (7)
- 47 River flowing through Paris (5)
- 49 Deep open split in a glacier (8)
- 50 Italian ham (10)

DOWN

- 1 Bone from which Eve was supposedly created (3)
- 2 Noise-producing band that warns drivers to slow down (6,5)
- 3 Star sign for Gemini (5)
- 4 Affectionate name for the monster said to live in a large Scottish lake (6)

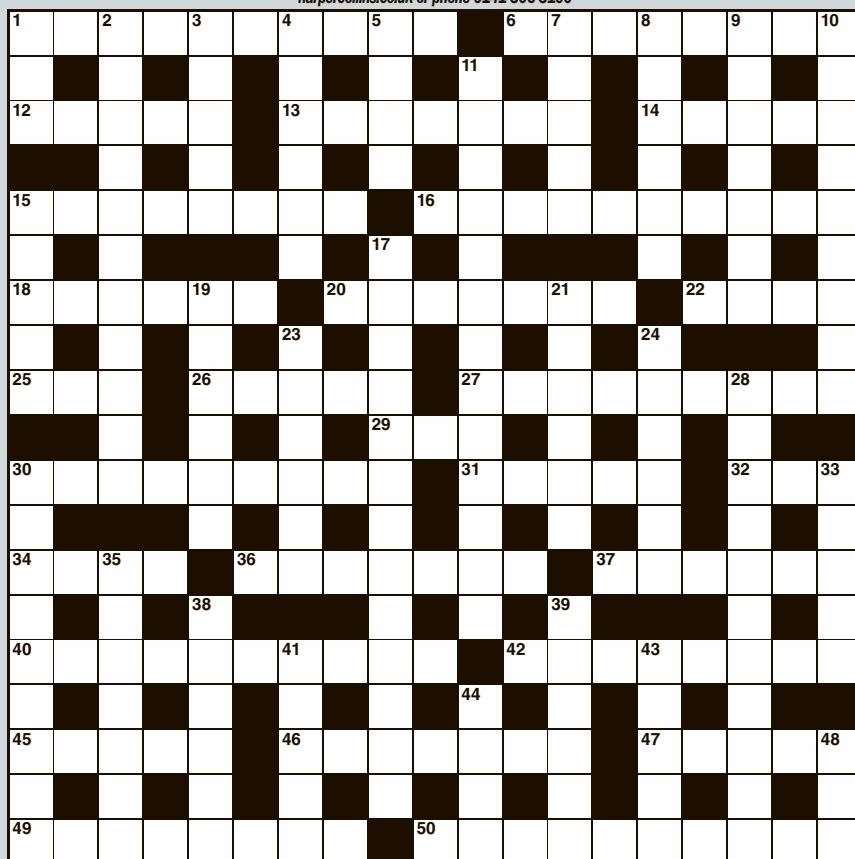
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Saddle stitch, 8 Cats, 12 Evaporation, 13 Van Gogh, 4 Krameria, 15 Klein, 16 Parsion, 20 Apartment, 22 Bernhard, 23 Spenser, 25 Globe, 26 Lima, 29 Shah, 30 Laura, 31 Simenon, 35 Astrakhan, 36 Monsarrat, 38 Ramsey, 39 Gi Joo, 40 Pamela, 44 Columbo, 46 Arthur's Seat, 47 Ozzy, 48 Shetland pony. **DOWN:** 2 Atacama, 3 Doonee, 4 Ewan, 5 Twiglets, 6 Tennis ball, 7 Hove, 8 Connacht, 9 Two, 10 Beckham, 11 China tea, 12 Scott, 14 Trelana, 17 Lynne, 18 Phantom, 27 Francigane, 28 Vera, 29 Shamrock, 32 James May, 33 Immortal, 34 Stuarts, 37 Roedean, 41 Aesop, 42 Rows, 43 Juan, 45 Liz.

- 5 Greek equivalent of the Roman god Mars (4)
- 7 First name of French novelist Zola (5)
- 8 1960s British supermodel (6)
- 9 Star of the comedy series Not Going Out (3,4)
- 10 English new town developed in 1946 (9)
- 11 Region around a moving electric charge (8,5)
- 15 Brainy people's organisation (5)
- 17 Acids that digest food in the stomach (7,6)
- 19 Portuguese islands (6)
- 21 Brian May's instrument (6)
- 23 Type of Italian red wine (6)
- 24 Geronimo's tribe (6)
- 28 Person who studies the origins of words (11)
- 30 Type of tyre invented by John Dunlop (9)
- 33 Surname of Alexei, British comedian/writer (5)
- 35 Inhabitant of England's second-largest city (7)
- 38 1980s Ford car (6)
- 39 French city with a famous 24-hour race (2,4)
- 41 Surname that links US Founding Fathers John and Samuel (5)
- 43 Pastoral people of East Africa (5)
- 44 French fashion designer of the New Look (4)
- 48 One of three components of the mind, according to Freud (3)

Check today's answers before midnight by calling 0905 757 0157 for Across and 0905 757 0160 for Down.
Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Purchase the latest Sun Puzzle Books, including crosswords, wordsearches & sudoku, for as little as £4.99 from the HarperCollins website harpercollins.co.uk or phone 0141 306 3100



bumper Puzzles section starts here

More puzzles than any other paper

CLUE SQUARE

Using the nine letters provided, can you answer these clues? Every answer must include the highlighted central letter. What word uses all nine letters?

5 letters
Coach, teach
Colour slightly
Scope
Spree
Uniting

G	I	B
T	N	Y
A	R	E

6 letters
Desk
accessory (2-4)
Keep
Relating to two
Repartee
Sampling

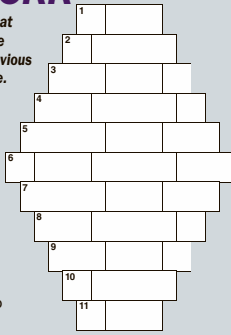
7 letters
Compass
reading
Encroach (5,2)
Hard rock
Lacerating
Pulsating

8 letters
Chiding

BRICKWORK

Answer each clue so that every word contains the same letters as the previous word, plus or minus one.

- Lay (a table)
- Rents out
- Fence steps
- Join the forces
- Shimmer
- Makes paler
- British language
- Individual
- Catapult
- Put your name to
- Juniper spirit



PATHFINDER

Beginning with the highlighted letter, follow a continuous path in the grid to find the listed words. The trail passes through each and every letter once, and may twist up, down or sideways, but never diagonally.

W	R	O	U	L	M	V	A	R
O	H	S	G	A	H	S	I	N
D	A	T	E	B	E	X	F	O
C	O	A	S	I	T	H	S	L
P	E	U	S	S	P	R	U	I
O	C	L	M	E	O	B	R	A
T	A	E	I	G	N	N	E	T
R	N	R	O	W	O	T	O	
E	S	O	R	P	D	E	R	

BALM
BRUSH
CLEANSER
EXFOLIATOR
MIRROR
POWDER
ROUGE
SHADOW
SPONGE
TISSUE
TONER
TOPCOAT
VARNISH

Sun Suko® 2

Enter the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of its four surrounding squares. Each coloured area should add up to the colour totals below.

21		10	
21		15	

14 13 18

SUGURU®

Each cell in an outlined block must contain a digit: a two-cell block contains the digits 1 and 2, a three-cell block contains the digits 1, 2 and 3 and so on. The same digit must not appear in neighbouring cells, not even diagonally.

	3		3	
1			5	
	5		4	
4				2
5	2			

THE NAME GAME

EACH clue leads to a well-known name. Put the initials or stated letters in the appropriate squares to identify an actress.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

3	Ms Furtado, singer of I'm Like A Bird
6 & 2	He was the BBC's first director-general (second and third letters of surname)
4	Mr Dale, actor who played Bradford Meade in Ugly Betty
5	Jockey Mr Dettori
1 & 7	Actress who played Mary Beth in Cagney and Lacey (first two letters of first name)

● Yesterday: Footballer NATHAN AKE (Edwin Hubble, Aristotle, Tom Allen, (Cathy) Dennis, Alex Kingston). Another Name Game in The Sun tomorrow.
■ If you can't wait until tomorrow for the answers, just call 0901 293 6298. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge.

PUB QUIZ

1 Movies

Who directed the 2019 film Cats?

2 Music

Who had a 1959 hit with the song Oh! Carol?

3 TV & Radio

What was Captain Mainwaring's day job in Dad's Army?

4 Leisure

In chess notation, K is used to identify which piece?

5 Geography

Which Scandinavian capital city is nicknamed the "Venice of the North"?

6 Science

A dermatologist specialises in what type of diseases?

7 Art & Literature

Who wrote the poem Address To A Haggis?

8 Celebrities

Which comedian wrote the 2021 autobiography Windswept & Interesting?

9 Words

What does someone who is described as querulous do?

- (a) Complain
(b) Cough
(c) Fidget

10 Britain

Fire exit signs in the UK are usually what colour?

11 This Year

Who played the villain Lyutsifer Safin in the Bond film No Time To Die?

12 Pot Luck

What is 37 in Roman numerals?

Two sets of clues but the answers are the same

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8						
10	11				12	
14				15		16
			17			
18				19		
			20			
21				22		23
24					25	

Check today's answers before midnight by calling 0905 757 0150 for Across and 0905 757 0151 for Down. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge.

Coffee time

ACROSS

- Throw (5)
- Unyielding (7)
- Paste-up (7)
- Ogre (5)
- Limitless (8)
- Small particle (4)
- Naturist (6)
- Arm flexor (6)
- Thought (4)
- Witty banter (8)
- Gunk or goo (5)
- Stalemate (7)
- Boffin (7)
- Adversary (5)

DOWN

- Dissenting clique (7)
- Unwell (3)
- USSR's openness (8)
- Warnings (6)
- Golden Fleece vessel (4)
- Accommodation (9)
- Tribal emblem (5)
- Squirming (8)
- NYC (3,5)
- Landscape (7)
- Late (6)
- Offspring (5)
- Greek goddess of youth (4)
- Understand (3)

Cryptic clues

ACROSS

- Chuck seen in highland dance (5)
- Insistent 80s pop star (7)
- New cello inlaid with silver artwork (7)
- Big Scotsman stopping GT (5)
- Popular female in east holds it as eternal (8)
- Bit in potato mash (4)
- One wearing nothing in dust storms (6)
- Black spice crushed creates muscle (6)
- Aide spoiled concept (4)
- Theatre skill doubled energy in comic dialogue (8)
- Reduce size first to extract gunge (5)
- Dead end that is restricting motorway flow (7)
- Cracking thoughts to trouble such a boffin? (7)
- Opponent in Yemen beaten (5)

DOWN

- Loud order to start shooting in group (7)
- Evil one disheartened Lionel (3)
- Last song about social policy (8)
- Alters incorrect trading updates (6)
- Carbon-free load in mythical ship (4)
- Cunning men in fitting rooms (9)
- Motet rewritten as tribal symbol (5)
- Gin, gifted surprisingly, makes you restless (9)
- Large fruit in Gotham? (3,5)
- Background in the theatre? (7)
- For greeting bow to each side (6)
- Magazine for children (5)
- Herculean bride of The Beast (4)
- Witness in Close Encounters (3)

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION
ACROSS: 1 Cod-a, 4 Puppy-fat, 8 Sac-re-d, 9 N-a-u-sea, 10 M-etaphor, 12 Hood, 13 Emblem, 15 Ex-ce-ed, 17 Ace-r, 19 Indecent, 21 Obolst, 22 Mena-ce, 23 Record-er, 24 T-w-ee. DOWN: 2 Orate, 3 Ai-r-m-ail, 4 Pad, 5 Pen-friend, 6 Youth, 7 Awesome, 11 Ham-fist-ed, 14 Macabre, 16 Coco-nut, 18 R-h-in-o, 20 Nic-h-e, 22 Ma-r.

WORD WORKOUT

THIS is the world's best brain teaser. The Sun's clueless crossword. Here is how to play: Each grid number in our Word Workout game represents a letter. So if you think 4 is the letter Y, write Y in all the squares with a 4. All the alphabet is used and we have supplied some letters to start you off. We will print the answers tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

ACROSS: Detail, Oxen, Stir, Verger, Showjumping, Qualms, Idol, Acne, Muesli. DOWN: Bent, Barrow, Flavoursome, Your, Demean, Haunch, Prizes, Leek, Only.

For 4 Extra Clues
Call 0901 293 6299 or text
SUNWORD to 64343

Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate.

	2		11		3		17		21		
19	4	15	9	1	14		4	16	7	15	
	1		14		25		13		23		
12	10	24	15		4	15	13	24	16	12	
			5		24				14		
24	23	16	11	12	12	24	22	14	1	8	
	4				24		7				
14	26	26	14	21	18		3	11	12	2	
	26		6		24		18		24		
6	24	12	14		7	22	14	3	5	7	
	15		3		15		20		14		

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

MINIDOKU

As normal Sudoku using digits from 1-4.

	3			3
1		2		
4	2			
			3	1
		3		
			4	

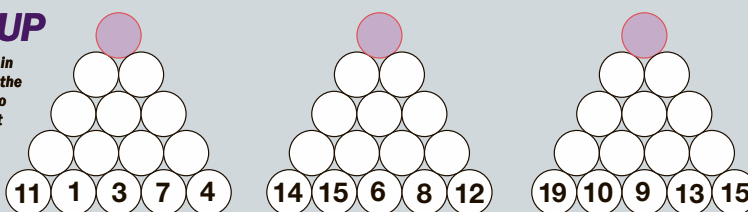
ARROWWORD

The arrows show the direction in which the answer to each clue should be placed.

Be enough for	Forming small waves	Permitted	Eyelid hair	Provide food	Feather scarf	Pamper	Drink cooler
			Language of Morocco				Aimless scribble
Ill-will, spite	Hayek, Mexican actress	High-pitched bark	Bonnie singer	Harmonised			
Verbal game (1-3)			Cotton string			Fractions of a yard	
Monthly pay				Ostrich-like bird	Canine animal	Alien spaceship (nits)	
Toss (a coin)			Showed the way		Ran away (from)		
Religious song	Get older		Sour citrus fruit			Hair solution	
			Small carpet		Garden party		

ADD UP

If the number in each circle is the sum of the two below it, what is the top number?



1	2	3	4	5
2				
3				
4				
5				









































					4	4
				3		
12	2			4		
					2	
	2			3		
			4			2
	5				2	

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v						
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					^	

A vertical wooden rack with a sign that reads "GIFT SHOP". The rack has several horizontal shelves. The sign is at the top and bottom, with the word "GIFT" on top and "SHOP" on the bottom. The rack is made of dark wood.

-

F	E	I	T	B	I	N	D	W	E	E	D	X	A	Y	L
B	A	V	R	E	A	M	A	F	H	G	O	R	S	E	L
P	U	A	O	I	L	D	E	E	W	K	C	I	H	C	E
S	R	R	T	L	S	O	A	N	M	S	A	C	L	T	B
A	H	I	D	D	G	L	I	N	Y	D	O	L	S	A	E
P	T	H	M	O	A	X	E	V	N	R	E	R	Y	T	U
U	A	E	S	R	C	N	O	S	N	W	A	I	P	H	L
C	T	L	M	F	O	K	D	F	D	G	A	I	P	I	B
R	P	L	N	H	S	S	L	E	W	N	L	I	O	S	R
E	U	E	T	A	N	O	E	O	L	S	U	D	P	T	A
T	C	B	E	I	W	P	R	Y	W	I	O	O	S	L	M
T	G	O	A	E	S	T	S	O	T	G	O	Y	R	E	B
U	N	R	R	E	R	N	C	G	R	N	M	N	I	G	L
B	I	E	S	A	A	K	C	O	L	U	M	B	I	N	E
H	K	E	U	T	T	R	S	N	E	E	L	T	T	E	N
A	I	N	A	I	R	E	L	A	V	O	R	C	H	I	D

OPEN					OUT
GOLDEN					KICK
RELIEF					TAX
VANITY					ENOUGH
PEARLY					CRAB
QUANTUM					YEAR
NIGHT					SEAT
ACETIC					TEST
PICNIC					CODE
SHOE					SURGEON

EASY	MEDIUM	HARDER
47	128	275
- 38	- 59	+ 3/5 of it
× 5	2/3 of it	÷ 20
÷ 3	- 38	+ 4576
+ 118	× 13	÷ 19
÷ 7	+ 409	- 137
+ 146	÷ 9	÷ 15
÷ 11	+ 169	400% of it
+ 117	Half of it	+ 905
÷ 12	+ 187	Third of it
ANSWER	ANSWER	ANSWER

	T		

	A	

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S	O			H	E	R	E
P	U	R	C			E	S
P	U	P			E	E	R
E	Q	U	I			L	E
U	N	A	S			E	D
D	I	S			A	I	R
B	E	V	E			E	S

4	5	3	8	D	
5		1	3		7
1	4	2	8		5
1	3	8		3	
	8	5	3		6

A D E J L R S T

1	2	3	4
		I	
5	6	7	8
			D

the Sunday dear deidre

No matter what the issue, I answer every single problem



Edited by
SALLY LAND

Team: JANE ALLTON, SOPHIE DONOVAN, HILARY FREEMAN and CATHERINE THOMAS

SEX-HELP CLINIC

Dear Deidre

MY husband has stopped climaxing and I'm worried it's because he doesn't find me attractive any more.

We've always had a really good sexual relationship and marriage but over the past few months, whenever we have intercourse he hasn't been able to ejaculate, no matter how long we try for.

I'm 55 and he's 61.

I've tried to be my sexy best, but without success.

He insists he fancies me, but how can he? I worry he thinks I'm starting to look past it. My bum and tums aren't as firm these days.

He's reluctant to go to the doctor about this issue. And although he does like a drink, he doesn't have any health issues we are aware of.

■ DEIDRE SAYS: Cutting out drinking and smoking can sometimes make a big difference to men struggling to climax.

So encourage your husband to cut back on the boozing and take more exercise too.

Some men do lose their ability to climax as they get older, but there are many other ways of maintaining intimacy and it's better to dwell on the positives and what you both enjoy rather than what you miss.

I'm sure your husband does still find you attractive, so try to focus on helping him with this issue.

For more information, I am sending you my support pack *Helping Your Man To Climax*. For counselling and practical help, you can contact the College of Sexual and Relationship Therapists (cosrt.org.uk, 020 8543 2707).

Dear Deidre

MY wife has completely lost interest in sex. She's always too busy or too tired.

When we used to have sex, she would only ever orgasm if I gave her oral sex or manually brought her to orgasm. She was exactly the same with her ex (her only other boyfriend) and has never climaxed during sex.

I'm 34, she's 35 and we've been married for 12 years.

We still love each other and get on well but I really miss sex. I don't feel as close to her any more.

She won't even discuss our lack of sex and I don't know how to get through to her.

What can I do?

■ DEIDRE SAYS: Your wife might genuinely be tired or too busy. Ask yourself: Are you helping out around the house as much as you could do?

A little bit of "choreplay" does wonders for the sex life. Your wife will feel appreciated and will have more time and energy to think about sex.

Let her know you miss the intimacy and want to reconnect with her. Are there any other issues in your relationship?

Discuss if there are any changes you could both make. Ask how she is.

Could she be stressed or depressed? Both can affect the libido.

If she is, encourage her to see her GP to discuss treatment. I am sending you my support pack on *Different Sex Drives* to help.

stories

THE ALL-NEW

deidre's
photo
casebook

JAMIE'S GAY ENCOUNTER:
FINAL DAY



WE CAN'T DO THIS. IT WOULD BREAK MY SISTER'S HEART. I'VE GOT TO GET AWAY - FOR HER SAKE

I DIDN'T KNOW I COULD FEEL LIKE THIS ABOUT ANOTHER MAN



I'M SORRY BABE. MY HEAD'S A MESS. I CAN'T GO THROUGH WITH THE WEDDING. NOT FOR NOW

WHAT?! BUT I'VE ORDERED THE FLIPPIN' CAKE

Dear Jamie

WELL done - you have taken the hardest step and told Lara you are not ready to get hitched.

And remember, you were more reluctant than enthusiastic about this wedding before Leo arrived on the scene.

Can you put everything on hold while you work out where your head and heart are?

Has Lara been pushing you to get married before you are ready? Are you

scared of this big commitment? Perhaps your parents had an unhappy relationship.

Either way, you and Lara deserve clarity.

It would be best if you move out and stay away from her brother while you think everything through. A rash affair with her brother would be the ultimate humiliation for her and could well destroy their relationship for ever.

Deidre

Dear Deidre

MY son and I are very close. His mum died when he was just three so I've always felt that in a way I have to be as good as two parents.

I'm 33 and he's ten.

He's a great kid but he's becoming more sexually aware and I don't know how to field his questions.

He recently asked me to teach him how to kiss like they do on TV. I realise this is inappropriate, but I don't know how to explain everything to him.

How can I be age-appropriate? I don't want him saying rude things at school and getting into trouble. My mum and dad never told me a thing, so my friends taught me about sex, but they got a lot wrong.

■ DEIDRE SAYS: Can you talk to your son's school

about their sex education programme and discuss the content? That way you can support him in line with what he is learning at school and get a sense of the learning level.

It is fine to answer his questions honestly and use the correct terms, like penis and vagina. This will help him understand the human body with a healthy attitude.

Explain that kissing between relatives is a natural way to express affection - via a quick peck on the cheek, head and sometimes lips. But say adults who love each other in a romantic way kiss for longer on the lips.

There are plenty of books for kids about sex and puberty. One is *The Boys' Guide To Growing Up*, by Philip Wilkinson.

Dear Deidre

THE constant smug dances, perfectly manicured men and women, and the ridiculous animals are driving me mad.

My boyfriend would rather spend the evening looking at TikTok videos than give me any attention at all. We are both 22.

We used to spend three or four evenings a week at his place or mine or when we'd go for a drive or watch a film together. Sometimes we would just chat.

But over the past few months all of that has dried up. Now he only ever shows me attention if he wants sex.

As soon as that's over, he goes back on his phone to watch videos.

I have made it very clear that I am unimpressed but he doesn't seem to want or

care to change for us. What should I do?

■ DEIDRE SAYS: It does sound like this relationship is all about him and his needs. Can you talk to him about this and tell him how you feel?

Of course sex is important in a relationship - but so is communication, support and sharing life experiences.

Suggest you have at least two evenings a week when you turn off your phones. Or suggest a phone curfew after 9pm. If he is not willing to change, perhaps it is time you made him your own video, telling him you are off the menu until he can wean himself off his phone.

I am sending you my support pack *Standing Up For Yourself*, which will help.

Struggling with her porn past

Dear Deidre

I WAS on track to ask my girlfriend to marry me, but I've learned she was a porn star. Now I find it tough to even look at her.

She is 32 and I'm 37. I made the discovery after one of her exes messaged me on Facebook with a link to the BDSM section of an adult website featuring my girlfriend.

He'd tracked me down by looking at her sister's profile - my girlfriend isn't on social media at all.

My girlfriend always said I should expect to hear from him at some stage because he was the type to cause problems.

Immediately I knew this man was out for revenge - and I wish I hadn't listened to him.

I confronted her as soon as she walked into our flat after work that day and her stunned reaction told me straight away her ex was telling the truth.

She begged me not to look at the videos and said she wanted to leave that life behind.

She admitted she had enjoyed making saucy films but then started to feel pressured by her

GET IN TOUCH



MY team of counsellors is here to help every day. We usually answer within 24 hours and always change details to protect identities.

The Dear Deidre team advises and assists people for **FREE** in an age when counselling sessions cost £50 and funding for support is at an all-time low.

If you would like help, email deardeidre@the-sun.co.uk or message us on Facebook [@DeardDeidreOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/DeardDeidreOfficial).

ex, the one who contacted me. Over time she said he pestered her to do more and more extreme films.

Worried she would never be able to do anything else, she continued the work for longer than she wanted.

Eventually she decided she'd had enough and ditched her old life completely. She cut ties with her boyfriend, her work, all her friends from that time in her life

and moved cities. I thought it was strange she didn't seem to have many friends.

She'd clam up whenever I asked her about her life before we met. Now it all makes sense.

I wish I'd never looked but curiosity got the better of me and I checked out her videos.

Although we are sexually adventurous, we have both said we are not interested in having threesomes, orgies, swapping partners or voyeurism. We like our sex life to be exclusive.

So seeing her have sex with many different men and women was awful - and like an idiot, I watched it all.

How can I get those images out of my head? I wish I'd never seen any of them.

■ DEIDRE SAYS: Rarely do the colourful details of someone's past help and, as you are discovering, such images are hard to move on from. Your girlfriend has chosen to be with you and is committed to your relationship.

You saw a happy future together before and can still achieve that - but you will have to accept her history.

If you are still struggling, it would be good for you to seek more help, both or alone. Get online counselling at tavistockrelationships.org.

MORE ONLINE

CONFUSED about your desires? Email deardeidre@the-sun.co.uk for the Bisexual Questions support pack. Read more at thesun.co.uk/deidre, Facebook [facebook.com/DeardDeidreOfficial](https://www.facebook.com/DeardDeidreOfficial), Twitter [@deardeidre](https://twitter.com/deardeidre). Or write to Dear Deidre, The Sun, London SE1 9GF (please enclose SAE).

SHOCK AT MUM'S X-RATED SNAPS

Dear Deidre

MUM has always been very confident about her body - and, growing up, my friends used to love coming round to play. I'd regularly find them staring at a couple of portraits she had up on the wall in the hallway and loo - of her naked.

They were tasteful pics and apart from her bottom, her modesty was covered.

But recently, while I was looking for photos for her 50th birthday, I got the shock of my life.

I found a much more lurid collection of images, which

showed off absolutely everything.

I can't unsee the images and it's making me feel really uneasy. What can I do? Mum is 49 and I'm 23.

■ DEIDRE SAYS: Pack these pics away and mentally tuck them away in a drawer also.

Your mum would never have wanted you to see her private images, which no doubt were taken for the enjoyment of her and her partner alone.

These do not change in any way your mother-son relationship, so try to put them out of your mind.

I LONG TO FIND LOVE LIKE PALS

Dear Deidre

MY parents can't understand why I have never had a relationship and to be honest, I'm starting to wonder the same.

I'm a good-looking woman of 22 and while I have only ever managed a handful of dates, my friends are getting engaged, married and even having kids. I feel so inadequate.

All around me, friends jump from one boyfriend straight to the next.

Some of them even have overlapping relationships. I always thought I'd have

settled down by now and feel a complete failure that I have never had a boyfriend.

My sister is 20 and has been with her boyfriend for a year and a half. What is wrong with me?

■ DEIDRE SAYS: Do stop comparing yourself to others. You only live your own life, not those of your friends or sister.

Keep socialising and make a big effort to get to know new people when the opportunity arises - love grows from these friendships. I've no doubt you will find love when the time is right.

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Which? Best Buy awarded to the VAX Blade 4



● **GAME** Of Thrones fans can soon go behind the scenes and travel to the heart of Westeros with a new set tour in Northern Ireland.

Opening next February at the original filming location – Linen Mill Studios in Banbridge – the interactive experience will give

guests access to sets, props and costumes, plus White Walker prosthetics and sketches. Two on-site cafes will serve food all day.

Tickets and gift experiences are on sale now, costing from £39.50 per adult or £55 including coach travel from Belfast. Find out more at gameofthronesstudiotour.com.



● **ANYONE** flying to Milan between now and March 2022 can bag a free night in a city centre hotel under the new Fly to Milano scheme.

To get the extra night, travellers will need to have booked a minimum of two nights at a participating hotel and fly into Malpensa or Linate airport.

Luca Martinazzoli, of Milano & Partners, says: "Hotels all over the city are taking part, which allows guests to discover Milan and its multiple facets." For participating hotels, see hotels.yesmilano.it

● **BUDGET** airline Jet2 has launched a festive campaign with bargain getaways up for grabs.

Bid For A Break features holidays to sunny Tenerife, Spain and Cyprus.

To bag one, bid the **LOWEST** amount – and if no one else has bid the same number, you buy the trip for that price.

There are five holidays up for grabs, ranging from

three-night breaks to seven. It runs until December 13. See jet2holidays.com/bid-for-a-break.

● **EASYJET** Holidays will refund families who have booked a Christmas trip to Spain after the country said anyone over 12 must now be fully vaccinated.

Families with teenagers who have not yet been jabbed can cancel for free until midnight tonight.

SWITZERLAND dropping its ten-day quarantine for Brits – less than a week after it was introduced – offers some hope that more countries will ease the rules that were put in place when the Omicron variant was discovered.

It is also a huge boost for those who have ski trips to the country booked and feared their hols would be cancelled.

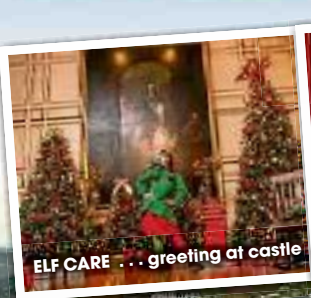
However, you now need to show a negative PCR test on arrival and take a further test between days four and seven.



Edited by **LISA MINOT**

travel

SANTA SLEEPOVER IN GROUNDS OF WARWICK CASTLE



ELF CARE ... greeting at castle



UNDER COVERS ... night stay



GROTCHA ... Ophelia with Santa



ICE ONE ... skating rink

'Twas the knight before Christmas

AS thick snow begins to settle on the deck in front of us, we peer out from behind the curtains of our cosy wooden lodge.

It's one of the first times my two-year-old niece Ophelia has seen proper snowfall – and she is mesmerised.

But we are not in the French Alps, nor Lapland.

Instead, we are in Warwick, the Tudor market town just south of Coventry, and the ferocious Storm Arwen has delivered a flurry of the white stuff just in time for our winter staycation.

A knock on the door breaks our stares and Ophelia bounds over to open it. Two jolly elves dressed in green felt frocks and red tights beam down from the doorway.

"Santa's told us some very good children are staying here," they say. It's tricky to tell if it's the bitter cold or costume make-up, but their cheeks are flushed a rosy pink as they hand Ophelia and her older sister Niamh a shiny present each.

This elf wake-up call is a highlight of the Santa's Sleepover experience here in the grounds of Warwick Castle. And it's enough to get even 15-year-old Niamh in the spirit.

That's certainly not the end of the seasonal festivities, either. In front of

GO: WARWICK

STAYING THERE: Warwick Castle's Christmas At The Castle runs until January 3. The Santa's Sleepover experience costs from £339 per family of four, including one night's B&B in a Woodland Lodge, two days' entry to the castle and an elf wake-up call with a gift for two children.

A 45-minute ice-skating session and Light Trail tickets costs an additional £14.50, while Stories With Santa is from £26pp including castle entry. See warwick-castle.com or call 01926 406610.

OUT & ABOUT: The Lord Leycester Hospital costs from £8.50 per adult, £2 per child or £20 per family of five. See lordleycester.com.

the castle walls, a large ice rink has been installed for winter, as well as a new light trail that weaves throughout the gardens.

Beyond the portcullis, children can also explore the princess tower or head for storytime with Santa, where they build their own board game in an elf workshop before settling down to hear tales of magical sleigh journeys across the Northern Lights and beyond.

Hang around until after dark to experience the true magic, though.

In the courtyard, German-inspired market stalls sell mulled drinks, bratwurst sausages and giant marshmallows to toast over an open fire, while in the background, castle turrets glow from spectacular multi-coloured spotlights.

Hungry visitors can tuck into pork rolls, fudge, chocolate-covered marshmallows and sweet treats galore. If that doesn't fill you up, the Knight's Village – the castle's on-site accommodation – has its own restaurant serving heartier dishes.

Timber houses

We're spending the night in a five-person lodge, where the varnished walls are adorned with swords, medieval riding gloves and other knight-themed artefacts.

As we step out into the frost in the morning though, the place feels more like a scene from Mariah Carey's All I Want For Christmas Is You video rather than ancient castle grounds.

Children kitted out in gloves and woolly hats have left footprints in the paths, and poking above the stony castle wall we spot a towering bauble-laden Christmas tree.

With so many kid-friendly activities and festive fun, the castle, which is part of the Merlin Entertainment group that also owns Alton Towers and Sea Life, is Warwick's main draw.

But with the high street's

independent shops and quirky cafes just a five-minute walk away, there's plenty more to explore.

As we make our way towards the main town, wonky timber houses line the streets and round every corner is a collection of small boutique shops selling everything from house plants to antique furniture.

If you haven't yet had your fill of history at the castle, then a trip to the Lord Leycester Hospital just off the high street is a must.

Once a functioning hospital in the Elizabethan age, the museum has kept many of its ancient rooms intact, including the former Brethren's kitchen which now operates as a cafe.

There's plenty of traditional, cosy pubs too, including the always-busy Rose and Crown that overlooks the bustling weekend market, and the Old Fourpenny that serves up loaded burgers, classic roasts and fish platters.

As the snow starts to thicken, we rush into the nearby church, where an annual Christmas tree festival is taking place. Rows of intricately decorated fir trees line the church nave and flickering lights dance on the stained-glass windows, reflecting on to cheery faces.

Even without the snow, you'd have to be a Scrooge not to feel festive in Warwick.

SOPHIE SWIETCHOWSKI

LARA FUN ... VR jungle

BECOME A TOMB RAIDER

UNLEASH your inner Lara Croft as you tackle climbing walls and trek in a virtual jungle at the all-new Tomb Raider experience.

Based on the movie and games, it opens in April next year in Camden, North London, and will feature live actors. Designed by the team behind Crystal Maze Live, visitors will be tasked with "saving the world" as they battle a series of puzzles and must escape a sinking ship.

Dallas Dickinson, Tomb Raider executive producer, said: "Lara is an icon who transcends generations, so fans of all ages will run, jump, and swing at this chance to save the world alongside their hero."

Early bird tickets are on sale now, from £77pp.

General admission tickets will be on sale from December 15. See tombraiderlive.co.uk.



CABIN IT LARGE

NORFOLK'S chic Congham Hall Hotel adds extra glamour next year with the launch of five luxury cabins in the Georgian manor's apple orchard.

Part of the hotel's tenth-anniversary celebrations, each will have a bedroom and sitting room, plus outdoor terrace with freestanding tub.

The Orchard Cabins will cost from £399pn, including dinner and breakfast. Rooms in the main hotel are from £249pn, including dinner, bed and breakfast. Details at conghamhallhotel.co.uk.



● **BOOK** a flight with Emirates to Dubai and get free entry to three of the city's most exciting attractions.

There is complimentary entrance to the Burj Khalifa At The Top, where you can see Dubai from the world's tallest building, as well as the new floating platform – the Dubai Fountains Boardwalk Experience allowing you to get closer to the famous water, music and light spectacle.

And there is also free entry to The Views Observatory at the Emaar Sky View Hotel, a daring skywalk along the glass-bottomed path for even more thrilling views of the city's skyline.

To qualify, simply book a return trip with Emirates to Dubai in any class cabin before December 20 for travel up to March 31, 2022. See emirates.com.



essentials

Wet Bag, from \$55, lapochette.co

NO matter how many times you wring out your swimming cozzie before packing it away, it never gets dry – and there's nothing worse than heading home from a sunny day at the beach or relaxing trip to the hotel's spa to find a soggy purse at the bottom of your rucksack.

That's where this little wet bag comes in handy. It has a very efficient anti-leak seal that contains any water – plus there's a handy zip pouch for your keys and other bits.

The material is waterproof and "deodorising", to prevent your gear getting stinky, but it's still machine washable if you want to give it an extra clean. Plus it's so chic, it could double up as a clutch bag.

WEST SUSSEX: Two nights' B&B at the 4★ Curious Pig In The Parlour in Copthorne, near Crawley, is from £220 per couple, for weekend stays in December. Price includes a bottle of prosecco on arrival. See thecuriouspigintheparlour.com.

ITALY: Seven nights' B&B at the 4★ Villa Romana Hotel in Minori is from £251pp, including flights from Stansted on January 26. See holidaypirates.com.

GRAN CANARIA: Seven nights' self-catering at the 3★ Riosol Hotel is from £499pp, including flights from Birmingham on December 19. See jet2holidays.com.

THAILAND: Ten nights' B&B at the 4★ Thavorn Palm Beach Resort on Karon Beach, Phuket, is from £906pp, including Heathrow flights on January 20. See southalltravel.co.uk or call on 0208 705 0086.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Seven nights' self-catering at Bumble Cottage in Chipping Campden is from £959 in total, for arrival on December 22. Cottage sleeps five. See sykescottages.co.uk.

● **STRUGGLING** with Christmas gift ideas for kids? How about flying lessons in a real aircraft?

flydays.co.uk is offering one-on-one training sessions with a professional pilot across the UK.

Kids sit behind the control panel and take flight while learning the basics and get a signed certificate.

Introductory lessons cost from £65pp, helicopter tours from £199pp.



CRACKIN' ICE RINKS

ONE of the largest rinks – for 250 skaters – is in the gardens of **Brighton's Royal Pavilion**.

There are penguin stabilisers for youngsters, mulled wine and hot chocolate for the adults. Open until January 9, tickets from £10. See royalpavilionicerink.co.uk.

An ice rink is included in the **Eden Project** Christmas experience with 40-minute sessions costing £8 per adult and £7 a child. The global garden in Cornwall has turned one of its tropical biomes into a winter wonderland, with a big band orchestra and light displays. Selected dates to December 24. Ice rink open until February. See edenproject.com.

It's just £5 for one hour of skating at **Coventry Glides**, above, in the middle of the cathedral ruins. Open every day until January 9. See coventry2021.co.uk.

Festive food and drink is on offer at **Edinburgh's Lid on Ice**, on George Street. Open until January 2, tickets from £6. See edinburghchristmas.com.



CASTLE CORKERS

STEP through the wardrobe into the mystical land of Narnia at **Castle Howard**, above, in North Yorks.

Dozens of trees there include a 28ft spruce decorated with 2,000 sparkling icicles and snowflakes, beneath the Great Hall dome. Open until January 2. Adult from £19.50, child £12.50. See castlehoward.co.uk.

Experience a Victorian Christmas as costumed servants prepare for the celebration in Palace House at **Beaulieu** in Hampshire.

The elaborate rooms are festooned with decorations including a 20ft tree. Enjoy carol singers, mince pies and hot chocolate and look out for Santa driving one of Beaulieu's vintage cars. From December 18 to January 2, closed Christmas Day. Adults from £23, children £12, under-fives free. See beaulieu.co.uk.

More than 100 **National Trust** houses have a Percy The Park Keeper winter trail, inspired by author Nick Butterworth's beloved characters. See nationaltrust.org.uk/Christmas.

SACKFUL OF PLACES TO VISIT THIS CHRISTMAS

WHEN it comes to family fun this Christmas, there's no shortage of superb events across the UK.

Markets, light shows, ice rinks, grottos, pantos and even singing trees have taken over theme parks, historic houses, city centres and seaside resorts.

TRISHA HARBORD delivers the best festive treats.

The get-out



HOLLY GOOD SHOWS

CIRCUS performers, aerialists, acrobats and daring stunts will enthrall families at **Great Yarmouth Hippodrome**, above.

Its Christmas Spectacular, from December 11 to January 9, also includes a water extravaganza featuring synchronised swimmers and giant fountains. Adults from £22, children from £13, see hippodromecircus.co.uk.

For an end-of-the-pier Christmas variety show of comedy, dance and magic head to **Cromer** in Norfolk. Until December 30, adults £26, children £10, see cromerpier.co.uk.

Don't be a Scrooge, go and see actor Mark Gatiss – who starred in Doctor Who and The League Of Gentlemen – in the cast for A Christmas Carol: A Ghost Story at London's **Alexandra Palace**. Runs until January 9, tickets from £16. The palace also has a grotto, ice rink and cafe serving mulled wine and mince pies. See alexandrapalace.com.

All the colours of the rainbow are lighting up **Fountains Abbey**, North Yorks, during Music And Lights on selected dates until January 2. Walk beneath the vaulted ceilings to hear live bands and choirs. Entry to the abbey and **Studley Royal Water Garden** costs £17 for adults, children £8.50. See nationaltrust.org.uk.



BANK ON SANTA

SANTA'S pressing his own money now and has set up shop in **The Royal Mint Experience**.

The home of coins in Llantrisant, South Wales, has transformed into a magical workshop with a 16ft tree, 6ft Nutcracker and hundreds of baubles and lights.

The experience is inspired by the traditional practice of popping sixpences into Christmas stockings and puddings.

Families can strike their own 50p featuring The Snowman before exploring the 1,100-year history of the Mint. Open until December 24, tickets £15. See royalmint.com.

The snow is falling at **Blackpool Pleasure Beach's** grotto. After meeting the big man and his elves, kids are given a gift, hot drink and a go on the Alice In Wonderland ride. Open until December 24. Child £15.99 with two adults allowed in free.

See blackpoolpleasurebeach.com. Shrek has got in on Santa's act at **Shrek's Adventure!** on London's South Bank, above.

Guests who visit on selected dates until December 24 can venture through the grotto, pose for pictures and get a candy treat.

Adult from £24, child £19.20. See shreksadventure.com.



SPARKLING PARKS

THE UK's tallest singing Christmas tree is a highlight at **Longleat safari park**, above.

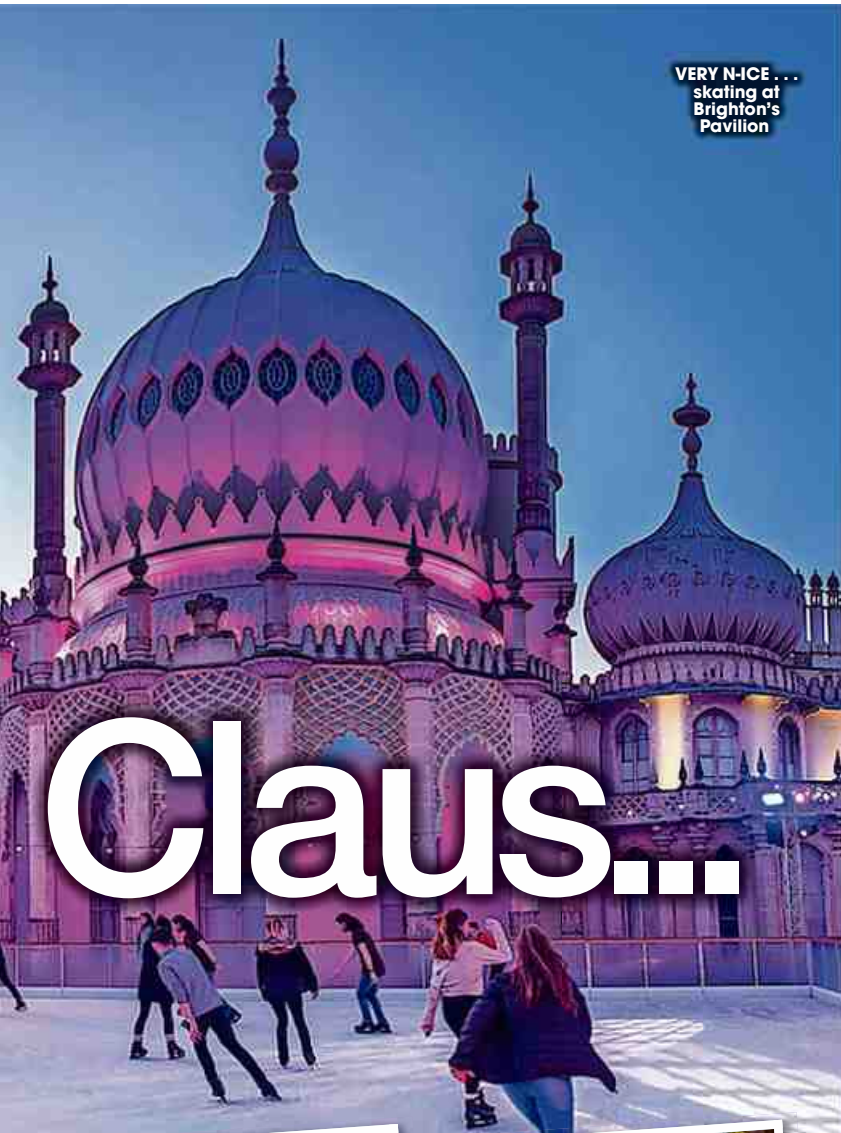
Every 20 minutes, the 65ft tree, decorated with 80,000 lights, bursts into song as snow falls. There's also a 165ft tunnel of lights, 100 decorated trees, owl displays and a Santa train. Selected dates at the Wiltshire park until January 3. Adult from £36.95, child £27.70, under-threes free. See longleat.co.uk.

Peppa Pig has a giant musical tree at her home, **Paulton's Park** in Hampshire, which has been transformed into a wonderland with a snow princess and Christmas wish show.

Selected dates until December 23. Tickets £33.50. Kids under 3ft free. See paultonspark.co.uk.

Winter's Tail – featuring animal light sculptures, a panto, market, Santa's grotto, carol singers and reindeer – returns to **Chessington World Of Adventures** in Surrey. Selected dates until January 3. Tickets from £20. See chessington.com.

Join Santa's elves in their workshop and walk through an enchanted Christmas tree forest before tucking into treats at the chocolate factory at **Camel Creek Adventure Park** in Cornwall. Tickets £15.95. See camelcreek.co.uk.



Claus...



SLEEPING BEAUTIES

THERE are still Christmas cottages to rent for all sizes of families. Garth Cottage for four, set in 50 acres on the edge of **Eden Valley** at Tottergill Farm in Cumbria, *above*, has a fire, hot tub and fabulous views. A week from December 22 costs £1,380. See premiercottages.co.uk.

Away Resorts is offering great Christmas deals including a break at Mill Rythe on **Hayling Island**, Hants.

There are themed activities for kids, entertainment, festive meals, an indoor pool and new lounge bar.

Three nights' self-catering in a Burst of Blue lakeside cabin with hot tub, sleeping seven people, from December 24, costs from £377. See awayresorts.co.uk.

Or curl up in the snug Lyme Grass cottage in the village of **Bamburgh** on the Northumberland coast.

There's loads of festive fun to be had at the nearby castle, which has been transformed into a winter wonderland for December, including reindeer feeding sessions for little ones.

Seven nights' self-catering at the four-person house is from £713 in December. See crabtreeandcrabtree.com.



MERRY MARKETS

SHOP 'til you drop while surrounded by a million twinkling lights and serenaded by festive music at **Blenheim Palace**, *above*.

The Oxfordshire stately home provides the backdrop for Christmas market wooden chalets, along with food, drink and crafts.

There's also an amazing light trail, and the palace's state rooms have been transformed into scenes from *The Nutcracker*. Combined tickets from £30. Market is free, £10 parking. See blenheimpalace.com.

The new **Made In East Yorkshire Christmas Market** is in Beverley from December 13-17, showcasing the region's best food, drink, crafts and gifts. There's also a Saturday Victorian market with fairground rides and brass bands. See beverleyfestivalofchristmas.co.uk.

Manchester Christmas markets, with a huge range of goods and international food, are taking over six city squares until December 22.

You won't be able to miss the 40ft Santa in St Peter's Square.

The city also has a new family-friendly attraction, including light sculptures, in Piccadilly Gardens until January 3. See visitmanchester.com.

FESTIVE FUN WRAPPED UP

IF you are planning some festive fun, why not make a weekend of it? From chic apartments overlooking Edinburgh's German markets to cosy country inns with roaring fireplaces, SOPHIE SWIETOCHOWSKI picks out some cool rooms for a quick Christmas getaway.



STALL STORY... crowds flock to Christmas Market in Edinburgh

EDINBURGH APARTMENTS, SCOTLAND



THESE luxury apartments in the centre of Edinburgh are close to all the festive action, including the huge Christmas market in East Princes Street Gardens and ice rink in George Street.

Couples can stay in a stylish one-bedroom flat in the heart of the city's New Town, while larger groups can book a roomy three-

bedroom apartment in a Heritage-listed building. Each oozes glamour – expect roll-top baths, old-fashioned fireplaces and spiral staircases – and all in walking distance of the train station.

Two nights' self-catering at an Escape to Edinburgh apartment costs from £538. See escapetoeinburgh.com.

DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH, OXON

ONCE you've had your fill of mince pies and mulled wine from the Christmas market stalls of Blenheim Palace, roll into a cab and take the five-minute ride to the Duke of Marlborough, up the road in Woodstock.

The bedrooms at this cosy inn have been refurbished and now boast super-comfy beds as well

as chic wooden en-suites that look more like a ski chalet.

Make sure you pop downstairs to the restaurant for some proper pub grub – try the 28-day dry-aged beef burger served with onion jam and fries.

B&B doubles from £300 for two nights. See dukeofmarlborough.co.uk.



BAYSTAYS APARTMENTS, WALES



SWANSEA Bay in South Wales is ideal for a coastal Christmas getaway. Stay in a Baystay apartment overlooking the marina which has been turned into a Waterfront Winterland for December.

Sip on Baileys hot choccies at the Alpine Village bar or take a spin on the magical observation wheel offering spectacular views

of the festive lights. You will also be less than an hour's drive from Santa's magical workshop at the Royal Mint Experience, where you can take a tour of Father Christmas's sorting office.

Two nights' self-catering stays in the one or two-bed apartments cost from £280. See baystays.co.uk.

CHOCOLETS QUALITY SUITE, N YORKS

TUCKED away in a renovated cocoa mill on the River Foss, this one-bed apartment has everything you need for a short getaway – plus a sofa bed that sleeps two extra guests.

Named after the festive favourites, the Quality Suite apartment has Quality Street purple pillows and bed throws

and complimentary chocs. It's just a 30-minute drive to Castle Howard and its humongous Christmas trees and sparkly grotto. There's festive fun on your doorstep, including St Nicholas Fair on Parliament Street. Two nights' self-catering from £230. See expedia.co.uk. More info at evilvo.com.



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of the snowman

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RACING EDWARDSTONE

Stone reigns supreme in Henry VIII

ALAN KING crowned 'a hell of a year' with his first Grade 1 for four years at Sandown.

The dual-purpose trainer has been catapulted into the big time on the Flat with star stayer Trueshan. But Edwardstone's runaway success in the Henry VIII Novices' Chase ended his drought at top-level over jumps. It's been a long time between drinks for one of Britain's

By JACK KEENE

premier trainers — so the bubbling will have been flowing at his Barbury Cartle yard last night. The horse himself produced a sparkling performance and William Hill slashed him to 8-1 for the Arkle. The 3-1 shot tanked into contention off a strong pace set by Third

Time Lucki — who faded tamely — and stormed home to win by 16 lengths. King said: "That was lovely. He has got a great cruising speed and it suited him that they went a right good gallop."

"It has been a hell of a year and the nerves don't get any easier. You do get wound up but when it comes off it is a wonderful."

It was a first top-level win for emotional Tom Cannon (below) who said: "It's a dream win and great to get the monkey off my back."



ED BOY... Edwardstone over the last to win for Alan King (left)

RACING RESULTS

■PAUL NICHOLLS rounded off a sensational Sandown day with a 1,000-1 hat-trick as Harry Cobden steered 9-1 Highland Hunter and 8-1 Sammarie to follow Bryony Frost and 12-1 Greenateen into the winner's enclosure.

■TIP-TOE Template was no Snow coach spotting 4-1 nap Snow Leopardess at Aintree.

11.15: 1 NORTH LODGE 5-4 P Heskin (11-1); 2 Bombs Away (5-4) Paul; 3 Richmond Lake (2-1), 8 ran; nk, 11. A King, T: £15; £220, £110, £10, £5; £43.30. Trifecta: £330.10, CF: £34.22.

11.45: 1 MY BOBBY DAZZLER A Edwards (7-2) (fav); 2 Landosmiles (11-1); 3 Return Fire (12-1), 11 ran; (To Be Sure 7-2) (fav); 4 nk, M. Wootton, T: £4.50; £160, £190, £37.00, CF: £32. Trifecta: £419.19, Trifecta: £568.50, CF: £47.1.

12.20: 1 ZAMBELLA D Jacob (5-1); 2 Annie Mc 5-1 (fav) (2-5 fav), 4 ran; 4/4, 10. N Twiston-Davies, T: £6; £218.00. Trifecta: £256.70, CF: £24.20.

12.55: 1 CLAN LEGEND A McManamin (12-1); 2 Rovers Onthe Storm (20-1), 10 ran (Annual Invictus 4-1) (fav), Galahad Quest 4-1 (fav), 3/4, N Alexander, T: £13; £4.90, £5.80, CF: £197. Trifecta: £295.40, CF: £201.72, NR: Five Star Getaway, Nietzsche, Palmers Hill.

1.30: 1 SEA SESSIONS J J Burke (8-1); 2 Calvaldos (1-1), 3 White Pepper (6-4) (fav), 9 ran, 2/4, 1/4, R Sullivan (IRE), T: £23.00, £2.60, £1.40, CF: £83.90. Trifecta: £345.20, CF: £82.66, NR: Lady Pacifico, Tiki Fire.

2.05: 1 PROTEKTOR Bridget Andrews (4-1); 2 Native River (5-2) (fav); 3 Sam Brown (8-8) (fav), 22, D Skelton, T: £5; £1.90, £3.00, £2.50, CF: £18.00. Trif: £74.22, Trif: £91.60, CF: £41.83.

2.40: 1 SNOW LEOPARDESS A Coleman (4-1) (fav); 2 Hill Sixteen (11-1); 3 Checkitout (12-1), 4 Domaine De L'isle (6-6), 21 ran; nk, 6, C Longson, T: £5; £1.70, £4.40, £3.00, £1.10, CF: £15. Trifecta: £560.58, Trif: £1652.80, CF: £58.60, NR: Mighty Thunder.

3.15: 1 TAMAR BRIDGE A P Heskin (2-1) (fav); 2 Pounding Pool (11-2); 3 Kateson (12-1), 13 ran, shd, 7/4, O Murphy, T: £3; £1.60, £2.20, £3.80, CF: £13.79, NR: Carys' Commodity, Hayce One O Two.

PLACED: £882.90 Q/POT: £232.40

CHEPSTOW
11.38: 1 ASK ME EARLY S Bowen (11-10) (fav); 5 ran, 11, H Fry, T: £2.20, £2.10, CF: £16.00. Trifecta: £160, NR: His Oscar.

12.12: 1 WHEN YOU'RE READY K Brogan (9-2); 2 Not A Red Model (22-1); 3 Shamrock De Berlaire (11-4) (fav), 12, Bn, 4/4, 1/4, Jonjo O'Neill, T: £5.70, £1.10, £6.10, £1.70, CF: £17.40, Trif: £324, Trif: £648.40, CF: £97.51, NR: Brave Seasca.

12.47: 1 TAKE YOUR TIME L Williams (10-1) (fav); 2 Bell Area (10-1); 3 Flashback (16-1), 11 ran, 2/4, 3/4, P Nicholls, T: £19; £1.00, £2.40, CF: £13.30, Trif: £97.72, Trif: £140.80, CF: £15.0.

1.22: 1 WILLDOIT S Sheppard (12-1); 2 Colorado Doc (9-2); 3 Clair Surf (7-1), 10 ran (Laskin 4-1), 24, 11, S Thomas, T: £14.70, £3.00, £1.80, £2.60, CF: £29.00. Trif: £245.30, Trif: £672.30, CF: £37.01, NR: One For Rosie.

1.57: 1 PATS FANCY B R Jones (6-1); 2 Geriaucourt Brock (3-1) (fav); 3 Broken Halo (14-1), 12 ran, 7/4, 2, R Curtis, T: £7; £2.10, £2.90, CF: £27. Trif: £245.26, Trif: £391.60, CF: £24.18, NR: Fausticus.

2.32: 1 REE OKTA S Bowen (11-10) (fav); 2 Complete Unknown (5-2); 3 Last Royal (5-1), 15 ran, 1/4, H Fry, T: £2.10, £1.10, £2.60, CF: £5.30, Trif: £239.00, CF: £4.02, NR: Pilgrims King.

3.09: 1 LIBERTY HUNTER K Brogan (6-1); 2 Serious Charges (7-1); 3 Mahon Point (9-2), 15 ran, Puchaculi 11-4 (fav), 2/4, 3/4, B Eckley, T: £8.20; £2.50, £2.40, CF: £60.20. Trif: £229.20, CF: £44.73.

3.45: 1 MARCO ISLAND Sean Houlihan (12-1); 2 Cruz Control (4-1); 3 Hatos (9-14) ran (Deere Mark 10-1) (fav), 2/4, 4/4, A Honeyball, T: £13.90; £2.40, £2.30, £1.60, CF: £92.40. Trifecta: £750.30, CF: £59.67.

PLACED: £37.10 QUADPOT: £8.30

SANDOWN
12.05: 1 COMITUTION HILL N De Bonville (10-1); 2 Might 1 (6-4) (fav); 3 Outlaw Peter (5-1), 9 ran, 1/4, 11. N Henderson, T: £3.10; £1.30, £1.10, £1.60, CF: £5.70. Trifecta: £233.00, CF: £5.75.

1.2: 4.0: 2 SHIROCCO'S DREAM B J Powell (4-1); 2 Volkovka (7-1); 3 Shantung (20-1), 12 ran (Fable 10-3) (fav), 1/4, 5/4, C Tizzard, T: £5; £1.90, £2.40, £5.60, CF: £38.00. Trifecta: £505.85, CF: £13. Trifecta: £35.44, Trifecta: £102.90.

1.15: 1 NATURALLY HIGH Jamie Moore (11-8) (fav); 2 Kamaxos (8-1); 3 Triple Trade (12-1), 9 ran, 4/4, 3/4, G L Moore, T: £2.38; £1.30, £2.20, £2.60, CF: £13. Trifecta: £35.44, Trifecta: £102.90.

1.50: 1 EDWARDSTONE T Cannon (3-1); 2 War Lord (1-1); 3 Third Time Lucki (9-5) (fav), 7 ran, 16, nk, A King, T: £4; £1.90, £3.40, CF: £29.80. Trifecta: £102.20, CF: £28.09.

2.15: 1 GREENATEEN Bryony Frost (12-1); 2 Hitman (22-1); 3 Captain Guinness (10-1), 5 ran (Chascon Pour Sol 8-13) (fav), 5/4, 10, P Nicholls, T: £13; £3.40, £3.80, CF: £90.40. Trifecta: £257.30, CF: £96.64.

3.05: 1 HIGHLAND HUNTER H Cobden (10-1); 2 Deleale Abu (10-3) (fav); 3 Clair Surf (11-1), 11 ran, 3/4, P Nicholls, T: £5; £2.60, £4.40, £3.60, CF: £122. Trif: £1500.64, Trif: £1246.50, CF: £39.04, NR: Natural History.

JACKPOT: £19,964.60 Q/POT: £207.26 Q/POT: £348.50 Q/POT: £210.10

WETHERBY
11.52: 1 HILLCREST R Patrick (11-10); 2 Grand Du Nord (14-1); 3 Pearly Island (33-1), 6 ran, 20, 28, H Daly, T: £1.55, £1.10, £2.30, CF: £29.09. Trifecta: £55. CF: £17.6, NR: Adjustment, Harry Du Berlais, Barony Legends - Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduce 50p in the £.

12.27: 1 LADRONNE Sean Quinlan (5-1); 2 Deleale Abu (10-3) (fav); 3 Hand (5-1), 10 ran (Little Orange 7-2) (fav), 13, 11, T Collier, T: £3.60; £2.10, £1.70, CF: £34.70. Trifecta: £131.48, CF: £13.14, NR: The Great View (11-3), 2 Zambetrix (12-1); 3 Thibault (11-1), 11 ran (Marr 10-3) (fav), 8/4, 4/4, P Nicholls, T: £5; £2.60, £4.40, £3.60, CF: £122. Trif: £1500.64, Trif: £1246.50, CF: £39.04, NR: Natural History.

JACKPOT: £19,964.60 Q/POT: £207.26 Q/POT: £348.50 Q/POT: £210.10

1.02: 1 BEAN IN FLOUR W T Kennedy (7-2) (fav); 2 Flexi Furglew (11-2); 3 Go Chico (8-1), 10 ran, 11, 1/4, O Murphy, T: £4.50; £1.80, £2.20, CF: £22.40. Trif: £142.76, Trif: £142.76, Trif: £142.76, CF: £22.60.

1.37: 1 SAINT PALLAS Sean Quinlan (4-5) (fav); 2 Colby De Mal (25-1); 3 Chef D'Euvre (28-1), 9 ran, 3/4, 5/4, R Bandy, T: £10; £1.90, £3.40, £3.20, CF: £20.10. Trif: £356.36, Trif: £229.40, CF: £25.67.

2.12: 1 NO RISK DES FLOS F Gregory (9-2); 2 Drumconnor Lad (25-1); 3 Haafepiece (15-1), 9 ran, nk, 1/4, O Murphy, T: £5.50; £1.70, £3.10, £2.90, CF: £27. Trif: £229.58, Trif: £391.60, CF: £24.18, NR: Fausticus.

2.32: 1 REE OKTA S Bowen (11-10) (fav); 2 Complete Unknown (5-2); 3 Last Royal (5-1), 15 ran, 1/4, H Fry, T: £2.10, £1.10, £2.60, CF: £5.30, Trif: £239.00, CF: £4.02, NR: Pilgrims King.

3.09: 1 LIBERTY HUNTER K Brogan (6-1); 2 Serious Charges (7-1); 3 Mahon Point (9-2), 15 ran, Puchaculi 11-4 (fav), 2/4, 3/4, B Eckley, T: £8.20; £2.50, £2.40, CF: £60.20. Trif: £229.20, CF: £44.73.

3.45: 1 MARCO ISLAND Sean Houlihan (12-1); 2 Cruz Control (4-1); 3 Hatos (9-14) ran (Deere Mark 10-1) (fav), 2/4, 4/4, A Honeyball, T: £13.90; £2.40, £2.30, £1.60, CF: £92.40. Trifecta: £750.30, CF: £59.67.

3.22: 1 FORTUITOUS FAVOUR R Patrick (10-3); 2 Bounce Back (2-1) (fav); 3 Chic Avenue (9-2), 11 ran, nk, 1/4, A Honeyball, T: £5.30; £1.50, £1.30, £1.60, CF: £12.90. Trifecta: £35.80, CF: £9.83.

PLACED: £41.80 QUADPOT: £19.50

WOLVERHAMPTON
4.00: 1 UMM HURAIR T Whelan (7-1); 2 Los Camachos (9-1); 3 Eligible (4-1), 11 ran (Closing Bell 11-4) (fav), 2/4, 1/4, R Oration, T: £8; £2.20, £2.70, £2.10, CF: £69.40. Trif: £294.36, Trif: £36.5, CF: £69.55.

4.30: 1 LAST AMMO Jamie Doyle (5-2) (fav); 2 Vummyvics (10-3); 3 Horneric (10-1), 13 ran, nk, 4/4, C Appleby, T: £3.50; £1.30, £1.60, £3.10, CF: £13.80. Trifecta: £50.0, CF: £10.68.

5.00: 1 EL ABALLO K Hill (11-8); 2 Navello (11-10) (fav); 3 Dakota Power (9-2), 3 ran, 3, 24, K Burke, T: £2.38; £2.90. Trif: £35.44, Trif: £102.90.

5.30: 1 MUSICKA J Watson (6-1); 2 Politics (5-1); 3 I Am A Dreamer (28-1), 11 ran (The Lampighter 4-1) (fav), 3/4, 3/4, D O'Meara, T: £7; £2.10, £2.10, £7.40, CF: £37.26. Trif: £809.98, Trif: £119.00, CF: £37.26, NR: The Great View (11-3), 2 Zambetrix (12-1); 3 Thibault (11-1), 11 ran (Marr 10-3) (fav), 8/4, 4/4, P Nicholls, T: £5; £2.60, £4.40, £3.60, CF: £122. Trif: £1500.64, Trif: £1246.50, CF: £39.04, NR: Natural History.

6.00: 1 KING OF THE SOUTH C Shepherd (evens) (fav); 2 Cardano (5-1); 3 Alfred Boucher (7-2), 6 ran, 3/4, nk, Y Knight, T: £2; £1.20, £2.20, CF: £6.40. Trifecta: £17.70, CF: £6.37.

6.30: 1 LOST GOLD A Kirby (9-2); 2 Screaming Petrus (6-4) (fav); 3 Early Morning Dew (12-1), 9 ran, 11, 1/4, S bin Suor, T: £5.80; £1.10, £1.10, £5.20, CF: £13. Trifecta: £502.90, CF: £11.75, NR: Serena's Symphony.

7.00: 1 CRIMSON KING F Larson (10-1); 2 Onemansoperator (7-4); 3 Further Measure (11-2), 7 ran (Neptune Seas 6-4) (fav), 3/4, 1/4, M Appleby, T: £5; £1.90, £1.40, CF: £32.90. Trifecta: £164.94, NR: The Great View (11-3), 2 Zambetrix (12-1); 3 Thibault (11-1), 11 ran (Marr 10-3) (fav), 8/4, 4/4, P Nicholls, T: £5; £2.60, £4.40, £3.60, CF: £122. Trif: £1500.64, Trif: £1246.50, CF: £39.04, NR: Natural History.

JACKPOT: £19,964.60 Q/POT: £207.26 Q/POT: £348.50 Q/POT: £210.10

1.08: 1 COMMANDER OF FLEET S FitzGerald (40-1); 2 A Great View (11-3); 3 Ballivynwall My (14-1); 4 The Jam Man (33-1), 23 ran (Burning Victory 11-4) (fav), 2/4, 4/4, 2/4, G Elliott, T: £5.50; £4.00, £4.70, £4.10, £1.50, CF: £568.80. Trif: £644.14, Trif: Not won, CF: £459.31.

1.43: 1 RIVIERE D'ETEL D O'Regan (14-1) (fav); 2 Take All (4-1); 3 Jacksons Gold (28-1), 6 ran, 12, 24, G Elliott, T: £1.25; £1.10, £4.20, CF: £5.70. Trif: £67.00, NR: Dancing On My Own.

2.18: 1 FAROUK D'ALEN K Sexton (7-2); 2 Blue Sark (14-1); 3 Ashdale Bob (3-1); 4 Velvet Elvis (4-1), 18 ran (Keskonisk 11-4) (fav), 7/4, 3/4, 8/4, G Elliott, T: £4.80; £1.70, £4.10, £3.40, CF: £55.60. Trifecta: £103.30, CF: £54.80.

2.53: 1 CONEAT S Fildergate (9-4) (fav); 2 Golden Jewel (5-1); 3 Winter Escape (12-1), 10 ran, 5/4, 6/4, G Elliott, T: £3.30; £1.40, £4.10, £2.10, CF: £16.00. Trifecta: £127.47, Trifecta: £238.10, CF: £14.94, NR: The Great View (11-3), 2 Zambetrix (12-1); 3 Thibault (11-1), 11 ran (Marr 10-3) (fav), 8/4, 4/4, P Nicholls, T: £5; £2.60, £4.40, £3.60, CF: £122. Trif: £1500.64, Trif: £1246.50, CF: £39.04, NR: Natural History.

3.28: 1 ITSWHATUNITESUS M J Codd (10-1) (fav); 2 Killer Mode (21-3); 3 Mount South (10-1), 15 ran, 6/4, 1/4, G Elliott, T: £1.31; £1.10, £1.10, £0.90, CF: £4.30. Trifecta: £80, CF: £2.66.

PLACED: £222.90

KEELOO JUMPERS

TEMPLEGATE	TOM PEPPER
12.03. KAVANAGHS CROSS (nap)	12.03. Kavanagh's Cross
12.33. Weststreet (nb)	12.33. Weststreet (nb)
1.03. Torigni	1.03. Torigni
1.35. Bushyark	1.35. Bushyark
2.10. Motown Maggie	2.10. Motown Maggie
2.43. Geonice	2.43. Geonice
2.13. Wor Verge	2.13. Wor Verge
3.13. Malpas	3.13. Malpas

■TIP-TAC: Left-handed wall track of 1m 3f, nine fences per circuit and stiff uphill run-in. A sharp hurdle course runs inside the chase course. ■LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS (2016-2021): L Russell 30-278, A M Thomson 24-130, N Alexander 23-192, D McCain 21-135. THIS SEASON: R Dobbin 4, D McCain 3, L Russell 2. ■TOP JOCKEYS WITH RIDES (2016-2021): B Hughes 51-301, C McNamee 21-143, Sean Quinlan 14-10, R Mania 19-78. THIS SEASON: B Hughes 5, D McNamee 4, C Nichol 3. ■LONGEST TRAVELLER: Torigni (135) travelled at Spanish. Round trip of 768 miles. ■TRAFFIC: A M Thomson won the 1.03 in 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018. ■FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OF: Etoile D'ecosse (2-10). ■LIVE ON RACING TV.

12.03 WILLIAM HILL 'NATIONAL HUNT' NOVICES' HURDLE (Class 4); £4,357; 2m. (8 runners)

1	1520	CONCORDE 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4	Jack Andrews 5 (90)
2	U4PB90	ECONOMIC EDWARD 271 A Nicol 5-11-4	Craig Nichol 71
3	5-2323	KAVANAGHS CROSS 23 (T) J Jardine 6-11-4	Niall Houlihan 51 099
4	1F43-26	NOT WHAT IT SEEMS 37 (H) M Hammond 5-11-4	Conor O'Farrell 92
5	P/15	ROWDY RUSTLER 19 (Bk T) L Russell 6-11-4	Derek Fox 80
6	1-6	SNOWY CLOUD 27 (P) A Nichol 5-11-4	Sean Quinlan 82
7	30	UNCLE GEE 43 C Ratten 5-11-4	Callum Bewley 84
8	URBLEAGA	TR Gerton 4-11-4	Doubtful

BETTING: 7-4 Kavanagh's Cross, 3 Concorde, 4 Not What It Seems, 6 Rowdy Rustler

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

2. 2020 Trooper Turnbull 6-11-4 3. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

4. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

5. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

6. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

7. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

8. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

9. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

10. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

11. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

12. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

13. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

14. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

15. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

16. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

17. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

18. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

19. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

20. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

21. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

22. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

23. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

24. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

25. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

26. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

27. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

28. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

29. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

30. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

31. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

32. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

33. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11-4

34. 1520 Concorde 23 (D) S Case 5-11

BIG-RACE GLORY FOR THE GIRLS

JOLLY GREENEAT

Fab Frost the Teen queen in Tingle

THREE cheers for the girls . . . with the loudest ones of all once more saved for brilliant, ballsy Bryony Frost.

The jockey was Queen of Sandown yet again, landing the showpiece Tingle Creek chase with a sensational ride on **Greeneat**. And 230 miles north it was ladies day at Aintree too, when the two main events both went to the fairer sex.

First Bridget Andrews had a 25-length romp as **Protektorat** turned the Many Clouds Chase into a procession.

And then **Snow Leopardess**, who actually had a foal during a two-year injury absence, landed the Becher Chase. Talk about one for working mums, eh!

But when it came to the top of the bill? Well no doubt about that. The fantastic Ms Frost, with a victory that moistened the eyes of everyone in Esher.

It has been the most tortuous of times for Bryony, who went through an emotional grinder this week in the bullying and harassment case against fellow jock Robbie Dunne.

Well the Sandown crowd left no-one in any doubt over where their loyalties lay, as she returned to three cheers and one punter bellowing "You're doing a great job Bryony - we support you."

Frost, giving trainer Paul Nichol-

By **PHIL THOMAS**



ols a 12th win in the race, admitted she was struggling to hold it together as she returned to the winners' enclosure. She said: "I was nearly in tears coming back in - to feel the support of everybody here is huge."

"Sometimes after the big races you feel relief when you pull up and then the emotion floods in like a waterfall, but I enjoyed that."

"After the last I thought, 'I'm going to get caught, somebody's going to come and get me. I can hear them, I can hear the crowd!'"

"But we won the Tingle Creek! I absolutely can't believe it. I can't tell you what it means. I'm speechless!"

As for thinking she was going to get caught up the famous Sandown hill? Well in the end Greeneaten roared home five-and-a-half lengths ahead of stablemate Hitman and going further clear.

What a return to the track for Nicholls' seven-year-old, as the deadly duo trumped even their fabulous Celebration Chase win there in April.

Flop of the race was hot favourite Chacun Pour Soir, Willie Mullins' ace chaser, who trailed in a well

beaten last. Yet this was a day for winners, not what-ifs. And there were more heart-warming tales at Aintree to add to the pot. In the Many Clouds Chase, there were plenty of cynics who reckoned Dan Skelton's Protektorat wouldn't see out the three miles and a furlong trip.

But in the end toughest job for Andrews was actually stopping her horse from hitting the front even earlier, he was going so well.

Runner-up Native River is as tough a street fighter as they come, with a Gold Cup and a Welsh National on his CV.

Yet when Andrews cruised past four out, it was done before they turned for home. In the end she was 25 lengths in front. So much for those stamina doubts.

Andrews, enjoying far and away the biggest win of her life, admitted: "I'm just so lucky to be riding him."

Big disappointment was two-time National hero Tiger Roll, pulled up after one circuit. Finally Snow Leopardess hung on from the flying Hill Sixteen to give pilot Aidan Coleman and trainer Charlie Longsdon a day to remember in the Becher Chase.

The apple of Charlie's eye has twice been out with lengthy tendon injuries and gave birth to a filly by Derby winner Sir Percy.

Whether she returns in April is far from certain, but as her trainer admitted, super Snow owes nobody anything.

Longsdon said: "She's a dude of a mare and not bad for a working mum!"



BRY BYE . . .
Greeneaten goes clear for Frost

HILLY WAY CHASE DAY AT CORK WITH SUNFARM

GOING: SOFT

11.40 RACING AGAIN 8TH JANUARY 2022 3-Y-O MAIDEN HURDLE; 3-y-o; winner €7,200; 2m. (18 runners)

1	CHAMPION GREEN F82 J O'Brien 11-2	J J Slewin
2	CHARLIE'S YARD F11 E Mullins 11-2	Simon Torrens
3	CLASSY CHOICE F72 (T*) J O'Brien 11-2	Daniel Holden (7)
4	DIXON LINE F66 S Sexton 11-2	Cathal Lander
5	GRAND REVIVAL 118 D Hogan 11-2	Dennis Hogan 81
6	HALCYON SPIRIT F75 C O'Connell 11-2	P M O'Brien (7)
7	0 HOOKLINESINKER 12 (P*) J Levis 11-2	Ricky Doyle 77
8	222 IBERIQUE DU SEUIL 22 (BF) G Elliott 11-2	Dennis O'Regan 99
9	JUST JACOB F48 C O'Brien 11-2	Conor McNamara
10	KOJIN F51 F Fahy 11-2	Kevin Sexton
11	U6 NO NEVER AGAIN 22 M Smith 11-2	R Deegan (3)
12	3 SWINGING LONDON 22 E Holden 11-2	Donal McNamara 95
13	F BWN 22 (H*) M Hassett 10-9	Phillip Enright
14	DUTCH SCHAEFER F41 D Hogan 10-9	Shane Mulcahy (7)
15	ELLIE TOM F41 (P*) E O'Sullivan 10-9	Jordan Canavan (7)
16	IZZY'S CHARM F32 (H*) T P McCreery 10-9	Cian Cullinan (7)
17	SEEN IT IN COLOUR F163 A McCann 10-9	Jonathan Moore
18	VERA VERTO F106 (T*) G O'Connell 10-9	Luke Dempsey 90
19	WHILE YOU'RE UP F40 A McNamara 11-2	RESERVE
20	IRISH TRIP J Halley 11-2	RESERVE
21	0 SAYVATYOUWANT 12 G Elliott 10-9	RESERVE

BETTING: 2 Iberique Du Seuil, 4 Champion Green, 6 Vera Verto, 7 Swinging London

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 0 2 1 2 1
2020: Autumn Evening 11-2 Sean O'Keefe 5-4 Fav (J Harrington), 9 ran.

12.10 FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM MAIDEN HURDLE (DIV 1); value to the winner €7,200; 2m. (18 runners)

1	F/P/90 BALLYGARAN PARK 61 E O'Grady 6-12-0	Shane FitzGerald (5) 77
2	BETTER TIMES AHEAD R Tyner 4-12-0	Phillip Enright
3	36-5 CLOONEY CASHER 13 D Dreaper 5-12-0	J J Slewin 82
4	6 CHOICE OF MINE 15 J Hanlon 4-12-0	M J Molloy (7) 72
5	CONVERTIBLE F23 (T*) A McCann 4-12-0	Jonathan Moore
6	90 HAPPY DREAMS 21 M McDonagh 4-12-0	Cathal Lander 80
7	212-33 HARRY BEARER 266 (T*) P Doyle 4-12-0	Luke Dempsey 90
8	44 JUSTBYSTONTHOMSON 248 P Nolan 5-12-0	R Deegan (3) 92
9	2/112-1 KILCRUIFF 221 (D) M Smith 6-12-0	Sean O'Keefe 99
10	KUBEGOOD F11 M Smith 6-12-0	Peter Carberry
11	07-5 LANDUE 106 C Courtney 6-12-0	Derek McGrath (7) 78
12	13 LADY DEBUT 631 (BF) H Bromhead 6-12-0	Keith Donoghue 97
13	40-7 MATCH THE MAN 350 (T*) J Grace 6-12-0	Phillip Donavan (5) 72
14	50-7 NEVERADULLMONT 212 D Dempsey 4-12-0	Donal McNamara 95
15	9462214 ONE LAST TANGO 41 E O'Grady 4-12-0	Simon Torrens 90
16	SHARP FOCUS F427 G Elliott 6-12-0	Kevin Sexton
17	0-00 TRIP TO MILAN 10 S Bradfield 6-12-0	W J Gleeson (7) 71
18	7081-04 WHATSPOTTINGYOU 24 R Hackett 5-11-7	Donal McNamara 92
19	32-27F8 LUCKY TENNER 19 (BF) P Fahy 6-12-0	Kevin Sexton 96
20	0 MUST BE DREAMING 3 (H*) M Tyner 4-11-7	RESERVE 70
21	08 SHAMROCK N ROLL 28 J Finn 6-12-0	RESERVE 70

BETTING: 2-5 Kilcruiff, 5 Harry Alonzo, 6 Lady Debut, 10 Sharp Focus, One Last Tango

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 3 2 1
2020: Joseph Conrad 5-12-0 Keith Donoghue 85-40 Fav (G Elliott), 18 ran.

12.40 FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM MAIDEN HURDLE (DIV 2); value to the winner €7,200; 2m. (18 runners)

1	49700-0 BOLD HERO 192 D McNamara 5-12-0	B P Kennedy (7) 73
2	BRIGHT IDEA F35 P Nolan 4-12-0	Phillip Enright
3	CONTRAPPO F41 R Donohue 7-12-0	Peter Carberry
4	11 DYSART DYNAMO 220 (T*) D Mullins 5-12-0	Sean O'Keefe 99
5	21-1 FINE BREEZE 105 (H*) M Smith 4-12-0	Keith Donoghue
6	FLAMING MONO F232 (H*) M Smith 4-12-0	Keith Donoghue
7	00 HOLIDAY IN KERRY 29 E McNamara 5-12-0	Conor McNamara 72
8	3PP-PP9 LORD'S DISCIPLE 21 W Burke 5-12-0	Mike Hamilton 70
9	32-27F8 LUCKY TENNER 19 (BF) P Fahy 6-12-0	Kevin Sexton 96
10	582233 MAHONS GLORY 236 D Hogan 5-12-0	Dennis Hogan 81
11	13 MARVEL DE CERY 34 (H) H Bromhead 4-12-0	R Deegan (3) 85
12	0/034-3 SPARKLING STARS 19 E McCarthy 4-12-0	R Deegan (3) 85
13	386 THE GRUIT SLOPE 129 S O'Brien 4-12-0	Mark McHugh (7) 89
14	542 THE WALTZER 22 G Elliott 4-12-0	Luke Dempsey 92
15	5-P4 VALRANN GOLD 29 (T) C Farrell 4-12-0	Shane FitzGerald (5) 81
16	10 LIMERICK LAKE 246 G Cromwell 4-11-7	Simon Torrens 90
17	075 MATULA WITH M21 (T) R Sweeney 4-11-7	Simon Torrens 90
18	SEARCH FOR A MYTH 8 J Tyrer 4-11-7	Dennis O'Regan
19	TOTUM TOWN J Walsh 4-12-0	RESERVE
20	9 ANSEO 33 J Dreaper 5-12-0	RESERVE 71
21	80 NICOLA'S FANCY 10 J Hanlon 5-11-7	RESERVE 70

BETTING: 5-4 Dysart Dynamo, 4 Flame Beam, 6 Marvel De Cery, 8 Limerick Lake

1.10 SINGLETONS SUPERVALU STAYERS NOVICE HURDLE (GRADE 3); winner €18,000; 3m. (8 runners)

1	6312-11 CHURCHSTONEWARRIOR 17 J Sweeney 6-11-5	Dennis O'Regan 99
2	21 CHINX OF LIGHT 42 J McConnell 5-11-2	Simon Torrens 90
3	4434259 DEDANANN 24 (D) J Ryan 7-11-2	Sean O'Keefe 84
4	26 HIGHLAND STING 31 J Ryan 5-11-2	Jonathan Moore 78
5	2/23-12 IDAS BOY 17 N Meade 7-11-2	Kevin Sexton 98
6	6333-12 PERFECT ATTITUDE 42 (BF) G Elliott 5-11-2	Luke Dempsey 94
7	210463 SWEET STREET 6 (CD) R McGrath 6-10-2	Jan Power 91
8	2P6-12 NELL'S WELL 17 (BF) S O'Brien 7-10-9	Mark McDonagh 85

BETTING: 5-2 Idas Boy, 11-4 Churchstonewarrior, 3 Chinx Of Light, 4 Perfect Attitude, 16 Sweet Street, 20 Dedann, 25 Nell's Well, 33 Highland Sting

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 2 4 5 1 1 PU
2020: Sayce Gold 7-10-9 Darragh O'Keefe 7-4 (M Winters), 6 ran.

1.45 O'FLYNN GROUP IRISH EBF MARES NOVICE CHASE (GRADE 2); winner €25,500; 2m 1f. (11 runners)

1	3/147P CARRIGEEN LOTUS 287 R Lalor 6-11-2	Miss E A Lalor 88
2	1/12-3 CONCERTISTA 218 (T*) W Mullins 7-11-2	Sean O'Keefe 99
3	132-23 DOLCITA 293 W Mullins 6-11-2	Conor McNamara 90
4	FU3P-23 JEREMY'S FLAME 29 (H) G Cromwell 7-11-2	Luke Dempsey 91
5	9103P4 KITTY GALORE 28 (D) J Ryan 7-11-2	Kevin Sexton 75
6	312-431 MAGIC DAZE 21 (CD) H Bromhead 5-11-2	Dennis O'Regan 95
7	3678-2 RAZZLE DAZZLE LOVE 43 (T) T Gibney 7-11-2	James O'Sullivan 90
8	04-1F3 ROBINIA 43 (BF) W Mullins 6-11-2	Jack Foley 92
9	P173-3 SAYCE GOLD 21 M Winters 8-11-2	Donal McNamara 89
10	922F523 THATS LIFEBUOY 7 J Ryan 6-11-2	Jan Power 72
11	2137-11 RIVIERE D'ETEL 22 (H*) G Elliott 4-11-1	Shane FitzGerald 98

BETTING: 11-3 Concertista, 6-4 Riviere D'etel, 8 Magic Daze, 14 Dolcita, 16 Jeremys Flame, 20 Sayce Gold, Robinia, Kitty Galore

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 1 4 FE 1
2020: Mount Ida 6-10-13 Dennis O'Regan 5-2 Fav (G Elliott), 6 ran.

2.20 KERRY GROUP HILLY WAY CHASE (GRD 2); winner €42,000; 2m 1f. (6 runners)

1	W Mullins 7-12-0	Sean O'Keefe 99
Runs: 8	Wins: 7 (3S,G)	Places: 1 €157,250
Star notice, yet to be tested over fences, unlikely to come off the bridle		
2	2377-1 NOTEBOOK 28 (T,D)	Shane FitzGerald 94
Runs: 20	Wins: 8 (2S,2G)	Places: 5 €270,712
Bold jumper, powered clear in the Fortia Chase at Navan, dangerous		
3	2F/FF CASH BACK 364 (H,D)	Jack Foley 90
Runs: 13	Wins: 3 (S)	Places: 4 €90,698
Talented, fell when beaten in this last year, not seen since, best watched		
4	19125 DALY TIGER 267 (D)	Dennis O'Regan 91
Runs: 17	Wins: 5 (S,G)	Places: 2 €112,468
Yet to prove himself at this level, could find things tough this season		
5	258214 DARASSO 7 (B,T)	Luke Dempsey 92
Runs: 30	Wins: 9 (2S,3G)	Places: 8 €344,981
Enjoyed a decent time of it over timber recently, not a natural chaser		
6	21F5P SIZING POTTSIE 263 (T,D)	Keith Donoghue 90
Runs: 16	Wins: 4 (1S)	Places: 4 €76,046
Very useful when the mud is flying, jumps well and will set a strong gallop		

BETTING: 1-3 Ennengumene, 9-2 Notebook, 14 Darasso, 16 Cash Back, 20 Daly Tiger, 25 Sizing Pottsie

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 1 FE 1 1
2020: Chacun Pour Sol 8-12-0, P Townend 1-5 Fav (W P Mullins), 4 ran.

Sunracing FORM

ENERGUMENE (11-12) 2-5 fav made all, asserted straight, strong on strong.
DALY TIGER (11-7) 3-1 held up, pushed along 3 out, ridden and no impression when jumped left 2 out, last of 5 (bth 38) to Any Second Now (11-10) (Navan 2m ch Grd 2 €21,000 soft to heavy).
DARASSO (11-12) 6-11 behind, no impression in 6th before 2 out, kept on 2 out, never on terms, 4th of 5 (bth 15) to Honeyuckle (11-5) (Fairyhouse 2m h/dm Grd 1 (t) €60,000 good).
SIZING POTTSIE pulled up latest, **NOTEBOOK** (11-12) 10-1 held up, pressed 2 out, soon pushed along and headed last, ridden and no extra run-in, 3rd of 6 (bth 15) to Chacun Pour Sol (11-12) **SIZING POTTSIE** (11-12) 50-1 towards rear, pushed along 2 out, no extra in rear last, eased, 5th (bth 42) (6 ran) (Leopardstown 2m 1f ch Grd 1 (t) €71,186 good to soft).

2.50 FERMOY HANDICAP HURDLE; value to the winner €8,700; 2m. (17 runners)

1	71-4 AN EPIC SONG 29 (H,D) M Brassi 4-11-2	Dennis O'Regan 99
2	1/38-40 DR MIKEY 8 (CD) M Flynn 12-11-2	Jan Power 95
3	9/58-10 DO NOTHING 222 (D) T O'Brien 5-11-2	James O'Sullivan (5) 88
4	5424-71 STRANGE NOTIONS 195 (D) C O'Brien 7-11-10	Phillip Enright 98
5	P8P8-5 PROSPECTUS F41 (P,D) J Coyle 8-11-9	Keith Donoghue 97
6	4-30084 ENA BAIE 42 (D) C O'Dwyer 7-11-6	Ricky Doyle 98
7	58001-1 KILLY MAX 21 (CD) S Doyle 5-11-5	Jack Foley (5) 97
8	031222 WATERVILLE DANCER 92 (BF) C Byrnes 7-11-5	J J Slewin 90
9	303-623 MAHLERS DOLLAR 24 (D) T O'Brien 7-11-3	Shane FitzGerald (5) 94
10	7418P PYTHON 63 (D) M Winters 5-11-3	Donal McNamara 89
11	31259-9 REVELYN PLEASURE 180 S O'Brien 9-11-3	Mark McDonagh (7) 84
12	3-459 L'IMPETRIENT 19 E Bolger 5-11-1	Simon Torrens 85
13	P40331 LONGACRE SQUARE 23 (P) J Hanlon 5-11-1	Shane Fenealon (7) 95
14	98-214 MIGHTY MEGGIE 22 (H,D) J Harrington 5-11-1	Sean O'Keefe 95
15	1/500-0 LONCH SPPEAR F41 (T,D) A Martin 10-10-13	Liam McKenna (7) 74
16	666210 ITSNOTIN 300 P Nolan 8-10-10	R Deegan (3) 85
17	000/0 RED STRIKER 14 (P,T) A McNamara 6-9-12	Peter Carberry 76

BETTING: 4 Lucky Max, 5 Mahlers Dollar, 12 Strange Notions, 6 An Epic Song, 7 Mighty Meggie, 10 Waterville Dancer, 12 L'impetient, Ena Baie

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 8 abd 1 2 4
2020: Conright Boy 11-0-11 Adam Short 18-1 (C O'Leary), 12 ran.

3.20 RIVER BLACKWATER NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE; value to the winner €6,000; 2m 4f. (18 runners)

1	2P16245 EMIR DE ROTTS 26 C O'Dwyer 7-12-0	Charlie O'Dwyer (7) 97
2	625-513 MORE WINE LILLY 15 (C) R McGrath 6-11-13	Jan Power 98
3	3950-10 CRACKAWAY 21 (BD) S Fahy 5-11-11	Kevin Sexton 93
4	467 DUNDEESLEPPAN 195 E O'Sullivan 8-11-11	Simon Torrens 89
5	2-05841 BEN THOMSON 21 (T) N Meade 5-11-9	N J Slewin 96
6	005-632 TEMPTATIONMILAN 37 (BF) C Byrnes 5-11-9	Jack Foley (5) 97
7	6471208 DALLIE 15 (BD) J Hanlon 6-11-8	Shane Fenealon (7) 99
8	4296-7 SARGENT LIGHTFOOT 17 (H) A Murray 7-11-8	Dennis O'Regan 90
9	F004-3 FIELDS OF DREAMS 92 (P*) G Elliott 5-11-7	Luke Dempsey 91
10	8/29P75 GLORY BREEZE 21 D O'Shea 7-11-7	James O'Sullivan (5) 95
11	63-4668 THE DANCING FARRIER 17 P Kiely 9-11-7	Mike Hamilton 91
12	42-3047 ADDED BONUS 41 J Walsh 7-11-6	Ambrose McCarthy (3) 97
13	PF7072 STEELERS APPEAL 12 E McCutcheon 8-11-6	N T Prendergast (7) 96
14	2P-1P1 CHELSEAS FRIEND 138 (T,BF) J Mangen 6-11-5	Shane FitzGerald (5) 94
15	672670 RIGHTFUL MIND 15 G Cromwell 5-11-5	Conor McNamara 93
16	1/500-0 WOLMOK 37 R Tyrer 5-11-5	Phillip Enright 85
17	666-4 LOUP DE TALLANE 102 E Griffin 5-11-4	Ricky Doyle 95
18	4803 THORLORFONTOONACH 41 E O'Brien 6-11-4	Gary Noonan (7) 85
19	8/47-09 FEATHERED GOLD 125 (H) S O'Brien 8-11-4	RESERVE 85
20	6080-P7 TUCKMILL 21 D O'Shea 7-11-7	RESERVE 85
21	2F7084 PRESENTING LAD 19 (P,T) E Doyle 5-11-4	RESERVE 95

BETTING: 5 Temptationmilan, 6 Steelers Appeal, 7 More Wine Lilly, 8 Chelseas Friend, 10 Emir De Rots, 12 Loup De Tallane, Fields Of Dreams, Ben Thomson

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 abd 2 6 1
2020: Feyan 5-11-0 Phillip Enright 11-1 (R Tyrer), 20 ran.

EAMONN HAMES

11.40	Champion Green
12.10	Kilcruiff
12.40	Dysart Dynamo
1.10	Chinx Of Light
1.45	Concertista
2.20	Ennengumene
2.50	Waterville Dancer
3.20	Loup De Tallane

TOM PEPPER

11.40	Iberique Du Seuil
12.10	Kilcruiff
12.40	Bright Idea
1.10	Idas Boy
1.45	Magic Daze
2.20	Notebook
2.50	An Epic Song
3.20	More Wine Lilly

■TIC-TAC: Right-handed galloping track of 1m 4f, there are 6 hurdles and 6 fences per circuit. ■LEADING TRAINERS (2016-2021): W P Mullins 43-130

HUNTINGDON'S PETERBOROUGH CHASE AND GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

TEMPLEGATE

12.17	Moriko De Vassy
12.47	Oscar Elite
1.57	Vee Dancer
1.52	Allmankind (nap)
2.27	Zacony Rebel
2.57	Flying Sara
3.27	Aki Bomaye

TOM PEPPER

12.17	Balco Coastal
1.47	Brinkley
1.27	Rock The House
1.52	Allmankind
2.57	PIPESMOKE (nap)
2.57	Presenting Nelly
3.27	Macfin

TEMPLEGATE'S TRIO:

Kavanaghs Cross (Kelso) and Allmankind (double) with Oscar Elite (both Huntingdon).

TOM PEPPER'S DOUBLE:

Pipesmoke (Huntingdon) and Weststreet (Kelso).

SUNRATINGS' NAP: ALLMANKIND

(L52 Huntingdon).

SIRIUS, Sun On Sunday, nap: BLAKENY POINT

(2.27 Huntingdon).

■TIC-TAC: R-H flat, oval of 1m 4f, nine fences and a 200yd run in. LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS (2016-2021): D Skelton 30-160, N Henderson 29-109, F O'Brien 19-73, K Bailey 18-120. THIS SEASON: M Harris 3, N Henderson 2, D Murphy 2, J TOP JOCKEYS WITH RATES (2016-2021): Skelton 24-31, N De Boinville 21-31, C Gethings 16-94, P Brennan 16-75. THIS SEASON: H Bannister 3, L GLENNAN TRAVELLER: Precious (2.57) & Good Luck Charm (2.57) trained by Seamus. RACE TIME OF 408 miles. ■FIRST RUN SINCE WIND OP: None. ■JACKPOT: 1-6 ■LIVE ON RACING TV

E-W THIEF

HAVE a Huntingdon e-w double. **ANNUAL REVIEW** (1.17) has a fair mark for this handicap debut. Pair him with **PRESENTING NELLY** (2.57 Huntingdon) who won nicely on debut at Uttuxeter.

FITZDARES BRITISH RACING SCHOOL NOVICES' HURDLE (Class 4): £5,010; 2m. (11 runners)

1	11 MORIKO DE VASSY 34 (D) T Symonds 4-1-5	Aidan Coleman 97
2	1 PEEJAYBEE 24 R Spencer 5-1-5	James Bowen 98
3	217 BALCO COASTAL 29 (H+BF) N Henderson 5-10-12	Nico De Boinville 96
4	1-63 BLACK POPPY 23 (BF,D) K Lee 5-10-12	Richard Patrick 99
5	373 EXTRAORDINARY 19 (D) Bridgwater 5-10-12	Michael Beasley 97
6	GENTLEMAN AT ARMS 64 S Edmunds 4-10-12	Ciaran Gethings 91
7	P-3303 GOLEIRHEM 22 O Murphy 5-10-12	David England 83
8	4560 PADDY HUSSEY TAXI 24 (H) N Mullolland 5-10-12	Sam Twistons-Davies 75
9	7 THE CHANGING MAN 56 C Tizzard 4-10-12	Brendan Powell 70
10	0 THE TURK COOCH 24 (H) C Vasson 5-10-12	Tabitha Worley 51
11	9/P WAR CHIEF 30 (H,T) J King 7-10-12	Tom Cannon 70

BETTING: 11-8 Balco Coastal, 10-3 Moriko De Vassy, 5 Black Poppy, 6 Peejaybee
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 3 add 1 1 add

FITZDARES COTSWOLDS CLUB IS COMING SOON NOVICES' CHASE (3): £8,169; 3m. (5 runners)

1	2110-3 BARBADOS BUCK'S 37 (B+BF) P Nicholls 6-11-2	Harry Cobden 92
2	1/P-11 BLACK JASPER 25 (P*) R Hobson 7-1-2	Jonathan Burke 79
3	1/P-110 BRINKLEY 262 (P,T*) D Pipe 6-11-2	Tom Scudamore 98
4	150-33 HONEST WIG 33 (V) H Day 5-1-2	Richard Patrick 94
5	19323-F OSCAR ELITE 21 (T) C Tizzard 6-11-2	Brendan Powell 99

BETTING: 7-4 Oscar Elite, 11-4 Brinkley, 10-3 Barbados Buck's, 7-2 Honest Wig
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: add 1 1 add

Sunracing FORM

BARBADOS BUCK'S (11-2) 10-11 fav chased leaders, never fluent, kept outpace, 3rd on Cave Owen (11-7) 4/1 to Ashdown Lad (11-2) (Wetherby 3m nov chs (4) £7,080 good to soft).

BLACK JASPER (10-2) evens fav led 3 out, ran on, bt Cave Owen (11-7) 4/1 (7 ran) (3m point-to-point good to soft).

BRINKLEY (11-7) 16-1 bt keen, chased leaders out well, every chance last out, weakened, 12th of 22 (bt 16) to Mrs Milner (10-3) (Cheltenham 3m nov chs).

1.17 FITZDARES TIMES CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS' HANDICAP HURDLE (4): winner £5,446; 2m 5f. (12 runners)

1	21-264 DYNAMITE KENTUCKY 32 R Newland 6-11-2	Cillian Leonard 92
2	43-2225 CREMANT 20 (P,T*) N Mullolland 7-11-10	Kieren Buckley 97
3	P23-052 CHENG GONG 26 (P) K King 5-11-10	Kai Lenihan 101
4	661-8P1 ROCK THE HOUSE 37 (CD) O Murphy 6-11-9	Fergus Gregory 91
5	502-15R BEMBRIDGE 12 O Sherwood 5-11-8	Alfie Jordan 108
6	3P5P-82 BLACKFINCH 20 (B) S Edmunds 6-11-8	Jack Tudor 95
7	7/07-4 ON SPRINGS 45 (P,B) B Pauling 6-11-5	Luca Morgan 96
8	9855-22 NOBLE SAVAGE 17 (BF) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-5	Mr Finn Lambert 101
9	69-4433 ANNUAL REVIEW 24 (T) F O'Brien 6-11-4	Lyly Pinchin 93
10	P-321FA SAY NOTHING 19 (D) A Hales 5-11-4	Jordan Nailor 95
11	20080-6 VEE DANCER 37 R McNally 6-11-3	Kevin Brogan 85
12	9855-22 NOBLE SAVAGE 17 (BF) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-5	Thomas Duggrell 91

BETTING: 5 Vee Dancer, 11-2 Noble Savage, 13-2 Cremant, 7 On Springs, Blackfinch, 15-2 Rock The House, 10 Annual Review, Dynamite Kentucky, Cheng Gong
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: add 4 FE add

Sunracing FORM

DYNAMITE KENTUCKY (10-13) 15-2 chased leaders, pushed along 2 out, outpaced, kept on, 4th of 11 (bt 13) (3 ran) (4) £5,010 good to soft.

CHENG GONG (10-1) 8-1 ridden 2 out, ran on from 2 out, bt 31 at Glimpse O Gold (11-4) (Chesham 2m NH mdn hdl (4) £4,094 good to soft).

CREMANT (11-7) 4-1 pushed along to challenge 2 out, every chance last, ridden run-in, ran on well, bt 4/1 by Jen's Boy (11-8) (7 ran) (Plumpton 2 1/2m hcap hdl (4) £3,594 good).

1.52 PETERBOROUGH CHASE (GRADE 2) value to the winner £42,712; 2m 4f (6 runners)

1	141-31 ALLMANKIND 42 (H,T;D)	Harry Skelton 99
2	D Skelton 5-11-8	Places: 2
3	12 Wins: 8 (4S,GS,3G)	Places: 2
4	Tough pacesetter, career best in the Old Road at Aintree, one to beat	
5	4225-1 ELDORADO ALLEN 33 (T)	Brendan Powell 92
6	C Tizzard 7-1-8	Places: 1
7	14 Wins: 4 (S,GS,3G)	Places: 1
8	Progressive, battled well to win the Haldon Gold Cup at Exeter, dangerous	

1166- FIRST FLOW 222

K Bailey 3-11-8. Places: 3 £168,96

2 Wins: 10 (10S) Places: 3

Class act in the mud, jumps well and more rain the better, respected

126-52 MASTER TOMMYTUCKER 15 (CD)

P Nicholls 10-11-8. Places: 3

Runs: 15 Wins: 6 (2S,GS,3G) Places: 3

Keen goer, ran well despite setting an overly strong pace at Ascot, go well

1212- FUNAMBULE SIVOLA 239

V Williams 6-11-8. Places: 3

Runs: 13 Wins: 4 (2S,GS,3G) Places: 3

Rapid improver last season, fantastic jumper and more to come

45330- KEEPER HILL 262

W Greatcoat 10-1-2. Places: 6

Runs: 30 Wins: 8 (2S,GS,3G) Places: 6

Exposed, jumping is not the best and he will surely struggle at this level

BETTING: 6-5 Allmankind, 9-2 Master Tommytucker, 5 First Flow, 11-2 Funambule Sivola, Eldorado Allen, 50 Keeper Hill

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 1 1 2

2020: Mister Fisher 6-11-3, N De Boinville 9-2 (N Henderson), 8 ran.

Sunracing FORM

ALLMANKIND (11-10) 9-4 fav made all, not fluent 3 out, driven out, bt Itchy Feet (11-3) 11 (8 ran) (Aintree 2 1/2m hcap chd 2 (11) £600,60 good to soft).

ELDORADO ALLEN (10-7) 3-2 driven last, stayed on well run-in, bt Hillman (10-7) 11 (6 ran) (Exeter 2m hcap chd 2 (11) £540,41 good to soft).

FIRST FLOW (12-0) 25-1 pushed along in 4th, faded, led of 6 (bt 43) to Chacoun Pour Soi (12-0) (Punchestown 2m chd 1 £650,00 yielding).

MASTER TOMMYTUCKER (11-8) 7-2 led, ridden 2 out, joined and headed last, not fluent, one pace run in, bt 4/1 by Lostintranslation (11-2) (6 ran) (Ascot 2m chd 2 (11) £540,41 good to soft).

ANNUAL REVIEW (11-7) 7-1 every chance, kept on, 3rd of 11 (bt 7) to Galore Desances (10-3) (Tasstown 2m mdn hdl (4) £5,174 good to firm).

SAY NOTHING (11-4) 13-2 led until 3 out, last of 4 (bt 23) to Sallyey Garner (11-7) (8 ran) (Taunton 2m nov hcap hdl (4) £4,684 good).

VEE DANCER (11-2) 8-1 kept on, 6th of 20 (bt 17) to Outside The Door (11-2) (2 ran) (Exeter 2m nov hcap hdl (4) £3,921 good).

WRONG WAY HARRY (11-3) 25-1 held up, ridden 3 out, one pace, 5th of 10 (bt 7/4) to Bailyard (10-11) (Exeter 2m hcap hdl (4) £3,268 good).

NOBLE SAVAGE (11-7) 5-2 fav stayed on, bt 81 by Norley (11-6) (8 ran) (Wincanton 1m 7f cond nov hcap).

141-31 ALLMANKIND 42 (H,T;D)

Runs: 12 Wins: 8 (4S,GS,3G) Places: 2

Tough pacesetter, career best in the Old Road at Aintree, one to beat

4225-1 ELDORADO ALLEN 33 (T)

C Tizzard 7-1-8. Places: 1

Runs: 14 Wins: 4 (S,GS,3G) Places: 1

Progressive, battled well to win the Haldon Gold Cup at Exeter, dangerous

1166- FIRST FLOW 222

K Bailey 3-11-8. Places: 3

2 Wins: 10 (10S) Places: 3

Class act in the mud, jumps well and more rain the better, respected

126-52 MASTER TOMMYTUCKER 15 (CD)

P Nicholls 10-11-8. Places: 3

Runs: 15 Wins: 6 (2S,GS,3G) Places: 3

Keen goer, ran well despite setting an overly strong pace at Ascot, go well

1212- FUNAMBULE SIVOLA 239

V Williams 6-11-8. Places: 3

Runs: 13 Wins: 4 (2S,GS,3G) Places: 3

Rapid improver last season, fantastic jumper and more to come

45330- KEEPER HILL 262

W Greatcoat 10-1-2. Places: 6

Runs: 30 Wins: 8 (2S,GS,3G) Places: 6

Exposed, jumping is not the best and he will surely struggle at this level

BETTING: 6-5 Allmankind, 9-2 Master Tommytucker, 5 First Flow, 11-2 Funambule Sivola, Eldorado Allen, 50 Keeper Hill

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 1 1 2

2020: Mister Fisher 6-11-3, N De Boinville 9-2 (N Henderson), 8 ran.

Sunracing FORM

ALLMANKIND (11-10) 9-4 fav made all, not fluent 3 out, driven out, bt Itchy Feet (11-3) 11 (8 ran) (Aintree 2 1/2m hcap chd 2 (11) £600,60 good to soft).

ELDORADO ALLEN (10-7) 3-2 driven last, stayed on well run-in, bt Hillman (10-7) 11 (6 ran) (Exeter 2m hcap chd 2 (11) £540,41 good to soft).

FIRST FLOW (12-0) 25-1 pushed along in 4th, faded, led of 6 (bt 43) to Chacoun Pour Soi (12-0) (Punchestown 2m chd 1 £650,00 yielding).

MASTER TOMMYTUCKER (11-8) 7-2 led, ridden 2 out, joined and headed last, not fluent, one pace run in, bt 4/1 by Lostintranslation (11-2) (6 ran) (Ascot 2m chd 2 (11) £540,41 good to soft).

ANNUAL REVIEW (11-7) 7-1 every chance, kept on, 3rd of 11 (bt 7) to Galore Desances (10-3) (Tasstown 2m mdn hdl (4) £5,174 good to firm).

SAY NOTHING (11-4) 13-2 led until 3 out, last of 4 (bt 23) to Sallyey Garner (11-7) (8 ran) (Taunton 2m nov hcap hdl (4) £4,684 good).

VEE DANCER (11-2) 8-1 kept on, 6th of 20 (bt 17) to Outside The Door (11-2) (2 ran) (Exeter 2m nov hcap hdl (4) £3,921 good).

WRONG WAY HARRY (11-3) 25-1 held up, ridden 3 out, one pace, 5th of 10 (bt 7/4) to Bailyard (10-11) (Exeter 2m hcap hdl (4) £3,268 good).

NOBLE SAVAGE (11-7) 5-2 fav stayed on, bt 81 by Norley (11-6) (8 ran) (Wincanton 1m 7f cond nov hcap).

141-31 ALLMANKIND 42 (H,T;D)

Runs: 12 Wins: 8 (4S,GS,3G) Places: 2

Tough pacesetter, career best in the Old Road at Aintree, one to beat

4225-1 ELDORADO ALLEN 33 (T)

C Tizzard 7-1-8. Places: 1

Runs: 14 Wins: 4 (S,GS,3G) Places: 1

Progressive, battled well to win the Haldon Gold Cup at Exeter, dangerous

1166- FIRST FLOW 222

K Bailey 3-11-8. Places: 3

2 Wins: 10 (10S) Places: 3

Class act in the mud, jumps well and more rain the better, respected

126-52 MASTER TOMMYTUCKER 15 (CD)

P Nicholls 10-11-8. Places: 3

Runs: 15 Wins: 6 (2S,GS,3G) Places: 3

Keen goer, ran well despite setting an overly strong pace at Ascot, go well

1212- FUNAMBULE SIVOLA 239

V Williams 6-11-8. Places: 3

Runs: 13 Wins: 4 (2S,GS,3G) Places: 3

Rapid improver last season, fantastic jumper and more to come

45330- KEEPER HILL 262

W Greatcoat 10-1-2. Places: 6

Runs: 30 Wins: 8 (2S,GS,3G) Places: 6

Exposed, jumping is not the best and he will surely struggle at this level

BETTING: 6-5 Allmankind, 9-2 Master Tommytucker, 5 First Flow, 11-2 Funambule Sivola, Eldorado Allen, 50 Keeper Hill

WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 1 1 1 2

2020: Mister Fisher 6-11-3, N De Boinville 9-2 (N Henderson), 8 ran.

Sunracing FORM

ALLMANKIND (11-10) 9-4 fav made all, not fluent 3 out, driven out, bt Itchy Feet (11-3) 11 (8 ran) (Aintree 2 1/2m hcap chd 2 (11) £600,60 good to soft).

ELDORADO ALLEN (10-7) 3-2 driven last, stayed on well run-in, bt Hillman (10-7) 11 (6 ran) (Exeter 2m hcap chd 2 (11) £540,41 good to soft).

FIRST FLOW (12-0) 25-1 pushed along in 4th, faded, led of 6 (bt 43) to Chacoun Pour Soi (12-0) (Punchestown 2m chd 1 £650,00 yielding).

MASTER TOMMYTUCKER (11-8) 7-2 led, ridden 2 out, joined and headed last, not fluent, one pace run in, bt 4/1 by Lostintranslation (11-2) (6 ran) (Ascot 2m chd 2 (11) £540,41 good to soft).

2.27 FITZDARES LOVES NICK LUCK DAILY HANDICAP HURDLE (3): £10,892; 2m. (7 runners)

1	2/3P-1 PIPESMOKE 19 (D) K Bailey 6-11-2	David Bass 88
2	5/4558- DESTRIER 241 (T;BF,D) D Skelton 8-11-12	Harry Skelton 90
3	2-61333 BLAKENY POINT 37 (BF,D) D McCain 8-11-11	Sam Twistons-Davies 99
4	7/5/4- ZACONY REBEL 65 (L) Lawes 6-11-9	Tom Cannon 96
5	22-167 RESTANDETHANKFUL 37 (T;BF,D) O Murphy 5-11-7	Adrian Heskin 86
6	1-13531 SORBERT 19 (P,D) L Wadhwa 6-11-2	Aidan Coleman 97
7	14-513P SID HOODIE 34 (P,T,D) A Hales 7-10-12	Harry Bannister 88

BETTING: 3 Pipesmoke, 4 Zacony Rebel, Destrier, 5 Sorbet, 6 Blakeny Point
WHERE FAVOURITES FINISHED: 3 add 0 1 add

Sunracing FORM

PIPESMOKE (10-12) 5-4 fav made all, ridden 2 out, left clear at the last, pushed out, bt Movel, Lisa Minnie (10-12) 24 (6 ran) (Lingfield 2m nov hdl (4) £4,084 good to soft).

DESTRIER (10-13) 5-1 fav niggled along 3 out, heeded, 8th of 18 (bt 12) to Editeur Du Gite (10-9) (Aintree 2m hcap chd 3 £4,202 good to soft).

BLAKENY POINT (11-3) 9-1 headway 3 out, led, 1st of 12 (bt 12) to 10 (bt 67/4) to Saint Arvans (11-6) 9-1

RESTANDETHANKFUL (11-6) 5-2 fav ran, mistake 2nd, asked for effort

3 out, no extra from 2 out, never involved, 7th of 18 (bt 12) to Movel, Lisa Minnie (10-12) 24 (6 ran) (Lingfield 2m nov hdl (4) £4,084 good to soft).

ZACONY REBEL (10-12) 7-1 led last, ridden, ran on, bt Haddock Des Obeaux (11-4) 5/4 (4 ran) (Fontwell 2 1/2m nov hdl (4) £4,084 good to soft).

SORBERT (10-11) 3-1 made all, bt Voice Of Calm

Novak's D-Day for Oz looms

NOVAK DJOKOVIC is refusing to say if he will defend his Australian Open crown — despite tomorrow's deadline.

According to multiple Grand Slam doubles champion **Todd Woodbridge**, who works closely with Tennis Australia, the player entry list closes "six weeks in advance of the tournament — so that's December 6".

Anyone involved in the so-called Happy Slam must be fully vaccinated to get into Oz for the

By ROB MAUL

January 17 start. The Serbian has been asked about his vaccination status but has refused to comment.

Following Serbia's Davis Cup semi-final defeat to Croatia, the world No 1 (left), 34, said: "Right now I understand you want some answers on where I start the season, how I start it. "Obviously Australia is around the corner, so you will know very soon."



SPORTS ROUND-UP: RESULTS & FIXTURES

BASKETBALL

BBL CHAMPIONSHIP - Surrey Scorchers 81 Glasgow Rocks 122.

NBA - Indiana Pacers 104 Miami Heat 113, Washington Wizards 101 Cleveland Cavaliers 116, Atlanta Hawks 96 Philadelphia 76ers 98, Brooklyn Nets 110 Minnesota Timberwolves 105, Houston Rockets 118 Orlando Magic 116, Dallas Mavericks 91 New Orleans Pelicans 107, Utah Jazz 137 Boston Celtics 130, LA Lakers 115 LA Clippers 119, Golden State Warriors 118 Phoenix Suns 96.

CRICKET

SECOND TEST MATCH
India v New Zealand
Mumbai (day 2 close): India 325 (109.5 overs; M A Agarwal 150, A R Patel 52, A V Patel 10-119), and 69-0 (21.0 overs) New Zealand 62 (28.1 overs; R Ashwin 4-8).

SECOND TEST MATCH
Bangladesh v Pakistan
Mirpur (day 1 close): Pakistan 161-2 (57 overs; Babar 60-0).

FORMULA 1

SAUDI ARABIAN GRAND PRIX (Jeddah):
Qualifying - 1 L Hamilton (GB) Mercedes GP 1min 27.511secs, 2 V Bottas (Fin) Mercedes GP 1:27.822, 3 M Verstappen (Hol) Red Bull 1:27.853, 4 C Leclerc (Mon) Ferrari 1:28.054, 5 S Perez (Mex) Red Bull 1:28.123, 6 P Gasly (Fra) Scuderia AlphaTauri 1:28.125, 7 L Norris (GB) McLaren 1:28.180.

GOLF

HERO WORLD CHALLENGE (Albany, Bahamas): **3rd Rnd** (USA, unless stated, Par 72) - **198** C Morikawa 68 66 64, **203** B Koepka 67 67 69, **204** D Berger 66 69 69, S Burns 71 65 68, T Finau 68 66 70, V Howland 69 68 69, P Reed 68 69 67, **205** S Scheffler 71 68 66, **206** B DeChambeau 69 64 73, **207** T Hutton (Eng) 69 67 71, **208** H English 75 70 63, **209** M Fitzpatrick (Eng) 71 70 68, **210** X Schauffele 70 70 70, W Simpson 67 72 71, J Thomas 67 72 71, **211** A Anser (Mex) 66 73 72, J Rose (Eng) 71 70 70, **212** R McIlroy (Nir) 66 71 75, **217** H Stenson (Swe) 72 75 70, **218** J Spieth 71 72 75.

ICE HOCKEY

ELITE LEAGUE - Cardiff Devils 3 Sheffield Steelers 5, Coventry Blaze 2 Glasgow Clan 5, Dundee Stars 4 Nottingham Panthers 1, Fife Flyers 0 Belfast Giants 3, Manchester Storm 4 Guildford Flames 3.

NETBALL

3-TEST SERIES (Nottingham): **2nd Test** - England 66 Jamaica 47 (England win series).

RUGBY UNION

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP

EXETER (8) **18 SARACENS** (6) **15**
Exeter - Tries: O'Flaherty, Cowan-Dickie, Cons: J. Simmonds, Cons: J. Simmonds (2).
Saracens - Pens: Lozowski (5).

LON IRISH (28) **43 NEWCASTLE** (14/21)
Lon Irish - Tries: Rowe, Hassell-Collins (3), Mall, Creevy, Cons: Jackson (5), Pens: Jackson.
Newcastle - Tries: Robinson, Chick, Radwan, Cons: Hayden-Wood (2), Radwan.
Att: 6,808

NORTHPTN (28) **40 BATH** (12) **19**
Northampton - Tries: Hutchings, Freeman, Augustus (2), Skoson (2), Cons: Biggar (4), Furbank.
Bath - Tries: Underhill, Boyce, Stuart, Cons: de Giamvili (2).

WORCESTER (25) **32 WASPS** (14) **31**
Worcester - Tries: Simpson, Van Der Merwe, Hill, Chudley, Cons: Smith (3), Pens: Smith (2).
Wasps - Tries: Filita, Frost (2), Wolstenholme, T. Willis, Cons: Gopperth (3).
Att: 6,910

P W D L B F A Pts
Leicester 8 0 0 0 5 263 136 37
Saracens 9 6 1 2 6 305 165 32
Northampton 9 6 0 3 6 277 225 30
Exeter 10 6 0 4 4 229 195 28
Harlequins 8 5 0 3 8 235 185 28
Gloucester 9 5 1 3 6 239 226 28
Lon Irish 10 5 3 1 4 282 276 26
Newcastle 9 4 1 4 2 174 205 20
Wasps 9 3 0 6 7 229 239 19
Worcester 10 3 1 6 5 194 342 19
Sale 9 3 1 5 3 195 207 17
Bristol 9 3 0 6 2 175 256 14
Bath 9 0 0 9 4 161 297 4

ALLIANCE PREMIER 155 - Gloucester-Hartpury 31 Loughborough Lightning 33, Harlequins 69 DMP Sharks 7, Saracens 17 Bristol Bears 12, Wasps 22 Sale Sharks 8, Worcester 12 Exeter Chiefs 29.

TENNIS'S PREMIERSHIP - Aberdeen G 6 Mar 17, Edinburgh A 29 Musselburgh 13, GHA 15 Currie 20, Glasgow H 17 Jed-Forest 10, Selkirk 9 Hawick 14.

UNITED RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

GLASGOW (19) **33 DRAGONS** (0) **14**
Glasgow - Tries: Tulipulu, Steyn, Dempsey, Price, Matthews, Cons: Thompson (4).
Dragons - Tries: Shipp, Doge, Cons: S. Davies (2).

OSPREYS (13) **19 ULSTER** (10) **13**

STORMERS (12) **19 LIONS** (13) **37**

P W D L B F A Pts

Leinster 7 5 0 1 5 219 85 28

Ulster 7 5 0 2 5 169 115 25

Munster 5 4 0 1 3 149 84 19

Connacht 7 3 0 4 4 196 171 16

P W D L B F A Pts

Ospreys 7 5 0 2 1 142 159 21

Cardiff 5 3 0 2 2 120 114 14

Scarlets 5 2 0 3 3 120 160 11

Dragons 7 1 0 6 5 131 174 9

P W D L B F A Pts

Lions 5 2 0 3 4 107 120 11

Sharks 5 2 0 3 1 115 129 9

Stormers 5 1 1 3 1 99 123 7

Blue Bulls 5 1 0 4 1 65 131 5

P W D L B F A Pts

Edinburgh 7 5 1 1 6 171 114 28

Glasgow 7 4 0 3 5 160 138 21

Breidvis 7 3 0 4 4 141 178 16

Zebre 5 0 0 5 1 0 0 0

GREENE KING IPA CHAMPIONSHIP

Coventry 15 Bedford 14, Ealing 54 Amptill 17, Hartpury 38 Richmond 20.

P W D L B F A Pts

Ealing 9 7 0 2 8 462 167 36

Jedres Red 8 5 1 2 7 230 156 29

Kernish P 8 6 0 2 4 201 136 28

Doncaster 8 6 0 2 2 202 144 26

Hartpury 10 5 0 5 6 285 258 26

Bedford 9 4 0 5 8 278 266 24

Coventry 9 4 0 5 3 177 241 19

Richmond 9 3 0 6 7 211 259 19

Amptill 9 3 1 5 5 217 287 19

Nottingham 8 3 0 5 3 171 281 15

London Sevens 10 5 0 5 5 158 392 7

NATIONAL LEAGUE - ONE: Bishop's St 20

Caldy 31, Leeds Tykes 21 Tonbridge 19,

Plymouth A49 Darlington 22, Rams 13 Black-

heath 17, Rosslyn Park 28 Chinnor 27, Sale FC

24 Birmingham 0, Taunton 26 Cambridge 26.

NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO NORTH -

Blaydon 19 Hull 38, Bourville 22 Chester

14, Fylde 15 Stourbridge 10, Harrogate 7

Sheffield Tigers 27, Hull Ionians 18 Luton-

ians 7, Rotherham Titans 26 Huddersfield 12,

Settleby Park 41 Tynedale 7, Wharfedale 15

Loughborough Students 14.

NATIONAL LEAGUE TWO SOUTH -

Barnstable 5 Henley 26, Bury St Edmunds 36

Esher 40, Canterbury 30 Westcliff 15, Dings

Crusaders 32 Hincley 22, Guernsey 7 10

Albanians 38, Rockford Hundred 28 Redruth

34, Worthing 23 Clifton 24.

WRU ADMIRAL NATIONAL CH'SHIP -

Bargoed 33 Cardiff Met 15, Bedwas 29 Cross

Keys 7, Glamorgan W 30 Beddau 5, Narberth

20 Ystalyfera 16, Pontypool 82 Tata Steel 3,

Trebans 21 Neath 29, Ystrad Rhondda 26

Maesteg Quins 19.

UK CHAMPIONSHIP (York): Semi-

finals - L Breck (Belt) bt K Wilson (Eng) 6-4;

Z Xintong (Chn) bt B Hawkins (Eng) 6-1.

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP FINALS (Madrid): Semi-

final - A Rublev (Rit) bt D Koepfer (Ger) 6-4;

6-4; D Medvedev (Rit) bt J-L Struff (Ger) 6-4;

6-4; K Krawietz & T Puetz (Ger) bt A Karatsev & K Khachanov (Rit) 4-6 6-3 6-4.

TENNIS Federation bt Germany 2-1.

TODAY'S SPORT

BASKETBALL

BBL Championship: Bristol Flyers v Plymouth City Patriots (3.0), Cheshire Phoenix v Newcastle Eagles (5.30), London Lions v Manchester Giants (4.0).

CRICKET

Second Test—day 2 of 5: Bangladesh v Pakistan (Mirpur, 4am).

Second Test—day 3 of 5: India v New Zealand (Mumbai, 4am).

FORMULA 1

Saudi Arabian GP (Jeddah, 5.30pm).

ICE HOCKEY

Elite League: Fife Flyers v Nottingham Panthers (6.0), Glasgow Clan v Belfast Giants (4.0), Guildford Flames v Cardiff Devils (6.0) Sheffield Steelers v Dundee Stars (4.0).

NETBALL

3RD TEST: England v Jamaica (4pm).

RUGBY UNION

Gallagher Premiership (3.0): Leicester v Harlequins. **Greene King IPA Championship** (2.30): Cornish Pirates v Doncaster.

TENNIS

Davis Cup Finals, Final: Croatia v Russian Tennis Federation (Madrid).

FORMULA ONE

SAUDI

WALL TO PLAY FOR

Low pole as Max hits buffers

LEWIS HAMILTON could not believe his luck after title rival Max Verstappen crashed out in qualifying on the final corner.

The Brit was told over team radio of the Dutchman's misfortune — after he had majestically conquered 26 of the 27 turns on the Jeddah Corniche Circuit.

Verstappen was on a flying lap across the self-proclaimed "fastest street circuit in the world" but hit the barriers in a hugely costly error.

His failure to finish means Hamilton will start today's race on pole.

And as Verstappen trudged back to the pits, there was a distinct feeling this epic title race is tipping back in the favour of the Mercedes man.

Hamilton is going in search of a record eighth world title that would move him clear of the tally he shares with legend Michael Schumacher.

After Verstappen's win in Austria, he had an incredible 32-point lead and it felt game over. But a victory here, plus

From BEN HUNT



a bonus point for setting the fastest lap, would wipe out the remaining eight-point lead after a sensational few weeks for 36-year-old Hamilton.

His performance in Brazil, where he undid 25 places worth of grid penalties to win, is the stuff of legend.

But lady luck has certainly been on his side — or has Verstappen been the architect of his own misfortune?

In Qatar he was slapped with a five-place grid penalty for ignoring double-waved yellow warning flags, which his team boss Christian Horner said were waved by a "rogue marshal".

That proved ironic here as Hamilton was hauled in to see the stewards before qualifying after being accused of the same offence.

Only this time

the stewards deemed the marshal at fault for pressing the wrong button.

Then there was a second let-off. Perhaps an even more clear-cut case, as Hamilton blocked Nikita Mazepin.

He was given a reprimand and Mercedes issued a £21,000 fine — but no grid penalty.

Those two decisions will anger Red Bull, especially the first given the severity of Verstappen's grid drop in Doha.

And Hamilton responded to his boost by hammering out fast laps around this terrifying high-

speed street circuit. At one point during Q3 he almost came a cropper and narrowly avoided the barriers.

But Verstappen was on his flying lap — and comfortably quicker than his rival — until he overdid it.

The 24-year-old will start in third. He said: "It's terrible, considering the lap I was on."

Hamilton has built up some head of steam over the last two races. But even so, Merc boss Toto Wolff says the odds are still stacked against them.

He said: "The probabilities are against us. It's very simple — we need to win both races."

"Winning a race is not only down to the fastest car and fastest driver — reliability has a massive influence."

"That is really the essence of motor racing."

"In summary, we never imagined we would be playing for the championship at this stage of the season."

"We've had two fantastic race weekends but we still need to have more in order to fight for this championship."



POLE POSITION
... Brit Hamilton



SIMMONDS ... disallowed try

MARK COUNTS COST

GALLAGHER PREM

By MATT MOORE

SARACENS boss Mark McCall slammed their indiscipline as title rivals EXETER beat them 18-15.

England No8 Sam Simmonds had a tenth-minute effort disallowed for Exeter but the Chiefs went into the break 8-6 up after Tom O'Flaherty crashed over.

Alex Lozowski's penalty nudged Sarries ahead before Exeter's Luke Cowan-Dickie — returning from seven weeks out — went over from a maul.

Chiefs moved further ahead through Joe Simmonds' penalty but two more from Lozowski set up a tense finish.

Sarries were left to rue giving away four penalties for dissent, with England international Billy Vunipola guilty on two occasions.

McCall said: "We were let down by inaccuracy and ill-discipline. We were marched back three times, which is not

good enough. It's not just frustrating, it's highly costly.

"It cost us points and it cost us decisions later because you are on the wrong side of the referee and things you deserve, you don't get."

WORCESTER took advantage of **WASPS'** 18-man injury list to secure a 32-31 bonus-point win at Sixways — a first Prem victory over them since 2013.

But they had to hang on after scoring the last of their points four minutes after the break.

Will Chudley's converted try followed first-half scores from Gareth Simpson, Duhau van der Merwe and Ted Hill.

Wasps scored three tries in the second half.

Flanker Tom Willis' late effort gave them the chance to nick it but veteran Jimmy Gopperth failed with a tricky touchline

conversion. Hooker Dan Frost went over twice while Vaea Fifita and Sam Wolstenholme also crossed as Wasps came away with two bonus points.

Chris Boyd channelled Forrest Gump when he described **NORTHAMPTON** as "like a box of chocolates" after they claimed a 40-19 win over hapless **BATH**.

The Saints ran in six tries at Franklin's Gardens, securing a bonus point before the break.

Juarno Augustus and court-nall Skoson both scored twice.

Boyd said: "It was a bit like the old box of chocolates: some of it was good and some of it was atrocious. There was the odd sour lolly in there!"

Winger Ollie Hassell-Collins scored a hat-trick as **LONDON IRISH** continued their good run with a comfortable 43-21 victory against **NEWCASTLE**.

ARABIAN GP

5.30pm

sky sports



DRIVER STANDINGS 2021

1	Max Verstappen		351.5
2	Lewis Hamilton		343.5
3	Valtteri Bottas		203
4	Sergio Perez		190
5	Lando Norris		153

HOW LEWIS STAYS IN TITLE RACE

- WILL be level on points with one race remaining if he wins and sets the fastest lap with Verstappen in second.
- WINS and Verstappen finishes third or lower. If that is the case, the Brit will lead the standings going into the final race.

HOW VERSTAPPEN WINS TITLE

- WINS and sets the fastest lap and Hamilton finishes outside the top five.
- WINS without setting the fastest lap and Hamilton is outside top six.
- FINISHES second with fastest lap and Hamilton is outside top nine.

FRONT OF THE GRID

1 Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)	3 Max Verstappen (Red Bull)	5 Sergio Perez (Red Bull)	7 Lando Norris (McLaren)	9 Esteban Ocon (Alpine)
2 Valtteri Bottas (Mercedes)	4 Charles Leclerc (Ferrari)	6 Pierre Gasly (AlphaTauri)	8 Yuki Tsunoda (AlphaTauri)	10 Antonio Giovinazzi (Alfa Romeo)



PACK A PUNCH... Yarde takes the fight to Arthur last night

Yarde shows he's got Art

ANTHONY YARDE got violent rematch revenge over Lyndon Arthur last night to settle their long-term grudge.

BY WALLY DOWNES Jr

Almost a year on from Arthur's shock points win over the Hackney light-heavyweight, Yarde earned payback with a four-round demolition job. Joe Smith Jr defends his WBO light-heavyweight title against Brit Callum Johnson on January 15 and Yarde's ruthless win means he will face the winner of that US clash.

Yarde, 30, said: "I knew what I had to do. "I was switched on for this fight. I took my time and got the job done. "I hurt him in the first round so I had to be patient."

"When I let my hands go, there's no light-heavyweight in the world that can handle it."

Arthur was booed by

Yarde's army on his way to the Copper Box ring but his travelling Manchester fans hit back to drown it out.

Yarde flew into action with a whipped left hook aimed at Arthur's head, then a right into his ribs. The Londoner also appeared to stun his rival with a three-punch combination late on.

In the second Yarde landed another meaty left hook and the high-stakes fight threatened to turn into a wrestling match.

As soon as the fourth started Yarde landed a brutal right to the body that Arthur, 30, would never recover from.

The wounded animal stayed on his feet but was battered up against the ropes until he finally collapsed and almost fell out of the ring before he was counted out.



KNEELY THERE... Arthur is about to be counted out

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BRECCEL... 'unplayable'

Luca out to WC it through

By ROB MAUL

BRILLIANT Luca Brecel enjoyed a major snooker victory for Europe — following a dramatic bathroom breakout.

The Belgian Bullet is the first man from the continent to reach the final of a snooker Triple Crown event after a 6-4 win over Englishman Kyren Wilson.

The world No 40 was branded “unplayable” as he hit four century breaks — 130, 105, 102 and 112 — in a masterclass at York’s Barbican.

Brecel got a standing ovation after the biggest win of his career.

He said: “I was so nervous before this semi-final. I couldn’t sleep. This is crazy.”

Yet he might never have made it this far after getting stuck in the toilet of his nearby flat less than an hour before his last 16 victory over Anthony Hamilton on Thursday.

Brecel, 26, said: “I locked the door. And I didn’t know how to open it. I was a bit worried.”

“My girlfriend even called the owner of the apartment.”

“Then suddenly it just clicked and I could get out. I was in there for about ten minutes. But it felt like two hours.”

“I won 6-1 anyway. So maybe I could have stayed there for longer!”

Wilson, who hit 121 in the second frame, said: “Luca had the game of his life there.”

Brecel now faces Zhao Xintong in today’s best-of-19 final after the Chinese Cyclone walloped Kent’s Barry Hawkins 6-1 thanks to breaks of 100, 81 and three 78s.

Zhao, 24, said: “I am very happy. First time in the semi-final and I did it.”

“This time I think I can do it and become champion.”

Kev feats lift spirits

By GARY CARTER

KEVIN SINFIELD believes his incredible fundraising efforts have helped raise hope as well as money.

The rugby league legend, 41, is nearing £5million for motor neurone disease charities after running 101 miles from Leicester to Leeds, on top of seven marathons in seven days last year.

He said: “I’ve seen it mentioned that I’ve done enough but it’s the only way to get people to understand and take notice. “We’ve raised awareness as well as the funds.”

“People can come out of the house now and not be ashamed as people understand what they’ve got.”



PAT'S MAGIC...
Ajaz Patel celebrates taking the wicket of Mohammed Siraj for his 10-wicket haul

KIWI PATEL'S PERFECT TEN

AJAZ PATEL became only the third bowler to pick up all ten wickets in an international innings.

The New Zealand spinner, 33, achieved the feat against India in the first innings of the Second Test in Mumbai.

He joined England spinner Jim Laker (*right, top*), in 1956 against Australia, and India spinner Anil Kumble (*right, bottom*), in 1999 against Pakistan, in the club.

But Patel, playing in the city of his birth, is the first man to do it in an away

Test. He said: “It’s pretty surreal. I don’t think you ever believe you’re going to achieve something like that.”

“The stars have aligned for me to have an occasion like that here in Mumbai.”

Patel, whose parents moved to New Zealand in 1996, finished with 10-119 as India made 325.

But the Kiwis then collapsed to 62 all out before India got to 69-0 before close of play.

Kumble tweeted: “Welcome to the club #AjazPatel #Perfect10. Well bowled! A special effort.”



COUNTDOWN TO THE ASHES

Rollercoaster

OLLIE'S JOY DOWN UNDER AFTER FEARING AXE

OLLIE ROBINSON will be filled with emotion and reflection when he comes face-to-face with the Aussies on Wednesday.

But that won't stop him getting into the batsmen's ears with chat and chirps designed to upset their concentration.

Robinson might be an Ashes rookie but he is not the sort of character to shy away from battle.

The Sussex quick bowler seems certain to be in England's starting XI for the First Test in Brisbane — following a debut home summer that brought wickets and controversy.

He snared 28 victims in five Tests but suffered the humiliation of being banned after the discovery of racist tweets he sent as a teenager.

As the racism scandal continues to cause shockwaves at Yorkshire and beyond, it must be said that Robinson has responded well to his own issues.

He apologised, took his punishment, vowed to educate himself and spoke most eloquently with his displays on the field.

Robinson, now 28, said: “I didn't think at one stage I was going to be playing for England again.”

“So it's been a rollercoaster over the last six to eight months. To be here now with the team is quite an emotional time for me.”

“Hopefully, I'll play in the First Test

From JOHN ETHERIDGE in Sydney

and that's going to be huge for me, a massive achievement and something I'll never forget.

“Since the situation in the summer, I've learned a lot and worked on myself as a person.”

“I know every single lad in this group is trying to better themselves as people and learn on the job as it were.”

“That's what I've been trying to do — make sure I better myself as a person and that those who come after me don't make the same mistakes.”

On the heat of battle in Oz, he added: “I don't think I'm the sort of person who could keep my head down if I tried.”

“I'm definitely going to be trying to get under the skins of the Australia players and try to sort of unsettle them.”

“If I can get them off their rhythm, then we're winning.”

“So it's something you'll definitely see and hopefully we'll come out on top.”

Although this is

Robinson's first Ashes series, he is not a total novice when it comes to cricket in Australia.

Aged 13, his father brought him on a dream trip to watch three Tests in the 2006-07 Ashes series.

England were whitewashed 5-0 but the young Robinson was still inspired.

More recently, he has spent two winters playing grade cricket in Sydney alongside Aussie fast bowling star Josh Hazlewood. Robinson also took seven wickets in the lone unofficial “Test” in the England Lions win over Australia A in February 2020.

He recalled: “That Lions tour taught me a lot about discipline and how you have to be fitter and stronger playing cricket out here.”

“As a bowler, you don't get away with as much as you do in England. You can't bowl a swinging half-volley and hope to get a nick.”

“Or, if the ball is moving, maybe I can get him lbw or nicked off.”

“I've looked at him and Marnus Labuschagne quite in depth and hopefully have a plan for both.”

“If you starve him of scoring, he's not someone who will sit there and block all day. So I'll try to be disciplined, stop him scoring and hopefully he'll make a mistake.”

“I've looked at him and Marnus Labuschagne quite in depth and hopefully have a plan for both.”



ROOKIE...
Robinson set for his first Ashes



NIGHTMARES... coach Langer

Stokes still haunting Aussies

BEN STOKES is giving the Aussies nightmares — more than two years after one of the greatest Ashes displays of all time.

Australia's head coach Justin Langer admits he is still haunted by Stokes' heroics with bat and ball in the Headingley Test of 2019.

Stokes (*right*) scored an incredible match-winning 135 not out and also bowled a gut-busting spell of nine overs on the third morning.

Langer said: “He's a great cricketer, no doubt about that. “I still have nightmares about

From JOHN ETHERIDGE

his innings in that Third Test. In fact I probably have more nightmares about his spell on day three of that game.”

“He's an unbelievable athlete and a great competitor.”

“It's great for the game of cricket that Ben Stokes is playing in the Ashes.”

“It probably wouldn't be the same without the best players. “It's nice to see — and hopefully Ben's health is good.”

“We welcome him here because he is one of the superstars of the game.”

In a behind-the-scenes film

called The Test, Langer was shown kicking over a wastepaper bin in the closing moments of England's one-wicket victory in Leeds — and then calmly replacing the scattered contents.

All-rounder Stokes was not in England's original Ashes squad but, once his mental health improved and his left index finger was fixed, he confirmed his availability.

Last week Langer went on a mercy dash to visit departed captain Tim Paine.

Paine quit after his lewd

texts were exposed and fast bowler Pat Cummins is Australia's new Test skipper, with Steve Smith as his deputy.

It is Smith's first leadership job since he was sacked and banned for his part in the Sandpapergate scandal of 2018.

Langer added: “I think the role of Steve Smith will become very important on the field.”

“Pat has lots of support around him, Steve as the formal vice-captain and David Warner has as good a cricket brain as any in the game.”



BOLTON hope for a cash windfall as a top chain looks at their built-in hotel. The League One club's new owners held on to the Whites hotel when they ended administration. This firm plan a deal to revamp it, either in a partnership or a buy-out.

Alan Nixon BOSS OF GOSS

SUNSPORT'S MAN IN THE KNOW FOR ALL THE RED-HOT TRANSFER NEWS

BRADFORD boss Derek Adams wants to bring in Greg Strong from Salford for his management team. Adams thinks the Ammies head of recruitment, would improve Bantams' squad. Both clubs are keen on Queen of the South centre-half Paul McKay, 25.



IDAHA... needs to play

GREAT IDAH TO GO INTO FOREST

YOUNG Republic of Ireland striker Adam Idah could be sent out on loan by Norwich — with Nottingham Forest favourites to land him. Idah, 20, has been unable to get much game time and the Canaries think he would be better off with regular action in the Championship.

Norwich are set to recall Jordan Hugill from West Brom to fill the vacancy in their squad.

He has had a mixed spell on loan and the Baggies are in the market for a new forward.

Meanwhile Forest are making checks on Scotland centre-half John Souttar at Hearts in case they have bids for Joe Worrall.

Forest have joined Stoke and Scotland's big two Rangers and Celtic in the queue for Souttar, 25, whose contract is running out.

Worrall may attract a big offer next month and Forest want to know what cheap and available options are out there.

Blackburn are also on the edge of the Souttar race in case they have an offer for skipper Darragh Lenihan.

Love & Ait

PSG EYE £30m RAY

WOLVES left-back Rayan Ait-Nouri is a shock £30million target for French giants Paris Saint-Germain.

Boss Mauricio Pochettino's spies have recommended the 20-year-old and the club may make their move in next month's window.

Frenchman Ait-Nouri only joined Wolves on a permanent basis in July after sealing a £10million move from Angers — and they could make a stunning profit on him.

He is seen as a must-buy by PSG for the long term and the fact that he could appear in the Champions League this season makes him more attractive for January's market.

Ait-Nouri has a long contract at Wolves so PSG would have to pay a heavy price to get his signature.

He started his career with Paris FC and moved on when he was 15 to Angers.

PSG currently have Portuguese left-back Nuno Mendes, 19, on loan from Sporting Lisbon but he has been in and out of the side.

Mendes may be signed permanently but Ait-Nouri is the alternative who is ticking more boxes.



RAY STING... PSG want to snatch defender Ait-Nouri

BACK FOR AK

PREMIER LEAGUE clubs are queuing up for Nigerian winger Akinkunmi Amoo — but they may have to wait.

Amoo, 19, is starting in Sweden for Hammarby and a host of teams are keen to sign him, but his chances of a work permit are slim just now.

The flying wideman (left) has yet to play for Nigeria at full international level and that may count against him as he bids to move to England in the next window in January.



CHRIS ROOLS

DERBY takeover bidder Chris Kirchner sat in Wayne Rooney's box rather than in directors' seats on his latest flying visit from America.

Kirchner (left) had no invitation from a club official or the administrators so went to the QPR game to look for answers on his efforts to take control.

The US businessman was joined by deal-maker Garry Cook in Roo's private seating area.



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BIG AL'S Wicked whisper

WHICH Championship club are in talks with MSD Holdings, the American financiers who are gathering clients?

The outfit are looking for a £20million loan to avoid the money running out and being forced to sell players next month.

MSD are already backing West Ham, Derby, Burnley and Southampton. They are wanting guarantees before adding this extra needy case.

RAFA'S PICK WILL HELP RAISE CASH

RAFA BENITEZ is open to selling keeper Jordan Pickford to raise funds at Everton — but the asking price makes that hard.



The Toffees boss is stuck with the current failing squad because he has no money to spend unless he wheels and deals next month.

England No1 Pickford (left) is the club's biggest asset but they price him at around £30million.

The Goodison star is also on about £100,000-a-week wages.

Tottenham have looked at the figures and although they could match his salary, the fee on top makes it an expensive transfer.

SUNSPORT COLUMNISTS GIVE THEIR



FROST... bullying claim

Case for change

IT HAS not been a good week for horse racing, as details of Bryony Frost's bullying and harassment case against Robbie Dunne play out in court.

And doubtless more will come when it resumes.

Whatever the outcome, and no one can pass judgement until its conclusion and a verdict, one thing has become obvious.

That the weighing room has to undergo a change.

It can no longer be a sanctuary of the jockeys which is self-policed.

That's not to pre-judge the decision either way here, but it's clear right now it operates on a code of silence — and probably one of fear as well.

What goes on in the weighing room stays in the weighing room, apparently. In the eyes of most within its walls, clearly.

Nothing will change what has gone on in the past. But the British Horse Racing Authority — whose tardiness in dealing with this is awful — have to act.

Whether that is having a BHA official situated within the weighing room, or whatever, but they must ensure there is never any chance of a repeat.

Most other sports have taken stances and are better for it. Racing cannot afford to be left behind.

The sport of kings? Draw your own conclusion.

Latvian let-down

AMIDST all the fawning and flattery at England Women's 20-0 Euro qualifying walkover against Latvia, the sanest voice was that of head coach Sarina Wiegman.

Yes, it was a fine achievement. Yes, you can only beat what's in front of you — for all it was as competitive as Manchester City beating the Red Lion reserves.

But in terms of advancing the women's game, it did nothing. The opposite in fact. Just like most of England's qualifiers, with their goal difference in six games now 53-0.

There are disparities in the male game, too, but not to that extent.

Women's football has taken giant strides.

Mismatches like this do nothing to enhance either its reputation or progress.

True Blue Roo & Big Dunc too

THEY'D BE EVERYTHING RAFA ISN'T

Phil Thomas

NO-NONSENSE ATTITUDE & GRITTY OPINION

NO ONE with an ounce of sense would argue that Rafa Benitez is anything but a top-class manager.

Just like they could — or should — not point the finger at him as the reason Everton are having such a beast of a season.

Benitez wasn't the man who paid stupid money for players who aren't worth it. And Benitez isn't to blame for an injury list topped by the obviously irreplaceable Dominic Calvert-Lewin.

But sometimes you can be the right man, just in the wrong place.

And that is what Everton have got right now.

It's clear there is only going to be one outcome to his time as Goodison manager, however many votes of confidence he gets from Farhad Moshiri.

His history with Liverpool meant it was always too bitter a pill for many supporters.

It wasn't a question of whether he was up to it, more a matter of where he had been before.

Not just die-hard fans, either.

I know a few Blues old boys from the not-too-distant past who weren't having him then — and certainly

aren't now. It was hardly rocket science that when things hit a sticky patch, Rafa would cop it, deservedly or not.

Benitez isn't stupid, he knew he was up against it from the start. But whether he knew the real ethos of the club, what really makes it tick, is debatable.

Everton has always been a one-off place. One of working-class heroes. One which loves to punch above its weight and bloody glamorous noses.

One fired by passion and pride, rather than one of Rafa's fine details and ideas, of intricate, forensic football. Certainly in its current, soulless state.

What Everton need now is someone to fire up that passion which is so lacking. Someone not scared to deliver a kick up the a**e. Someone with blue blood running through their veins.

Someone like... Wayne Rooney. And while we're at it — with Duncan Ferguson alongside him.

Yes, yes, I know Rooney's managerial CV, just over a year into his first job at Derby, is hardly the length of your arm.

But Ferguson (above) has been an Everton coach for nearly a decade, there's your experience.

And Wayne wouldn't be going into a club charged with winning trophies. Not in the state they're in at the moment.

It would be with a mission to steady the ship, get it back on course, get them playing with guts and pride again.

A return to the values they are in danger of losing. It is about having the heart for a battle.

And Rooney has proved he has that, working against ridiculous

odds as he has from day one at Derby. He's been happy to stick his chin out and take the blows, and has shown more than a glimpse of the old boxing genes, with the fight he's had to keep their heads above water.

With Rooney and Ferguson in the dugout, one thing you could say for certain is that they'd get the old place swaying again.

They would shake it up, sort it out and make Goodison a place to be feared once more. Once a blue, always a blue is great — but twice a blue is even better.

In terms of inspiration, of firing up the whole club, you won't get better. The biggest asset

Everton have right now is their fans, but the only noise they're making — the ones who stick it out to the end — is directed at their own team, directors, owner and manager.

Can you imagine the transformation under Rooney and Ferguson?

Can you imagine being a player who didn't give anything but every ounce of blood, sweat and tears?

They wouldn't suddenly become world beaters but neither would they be the soft-centred, easy-beats they are at the moment.

You'd never find any opposing manager telling his team "lads, it's Everton," that's for sure.

Whether it would work over a length of time, who knows? Whether Moshiri is bold and brave enough to make that call, who knows?

But just give them the chance. It is an intriguing thought and I tell you what... they might not win the league — but they would certainly not lose many arguments on the touchline!



GOODISON SPARK...
Everton hero Rooney would get the fans back inside if he replaced Rafa



VERDICTS ON EVERTON CRISIS

REAL ISSUE IS... TOFFEES ARE BANG AVERAGE!

Harry Redknapp
Britain's favourite pundit writing exclusively for **Sun**

RAFA BENITEZ is going through it at Everton but if all those having a pop think anyone else could do better, they are deluded.

At the start of the season someone said to me they fancied them for the top four, but I said, 'No chance' then — and that was when everyone was fit.

That's nothing to do with Rafa, it's because he inherited a very average team. You could put Pep Guardiola, or whoever, in charge finishing seventh would be as good as they'd get.

Of course they haven't been helped by Dominic Calvert-Lewin — and others — being injured, but what do they really expect from that team?

It's not so much the manager who should be carrying the can, they need to look at who's responsible for the recruitment because that's been poor.

They need to sit them down and ask, 'Why did you sign him? Why did you pay so much for him? That's where the real problem lies.'

People talk about whether it could ever work for Rafa, going to

Everton as a former Liverpool manager, but he did nothing wrong and it didn't surprise me.

He wanted to manage in the Premier League again, he still lives in the area and if the team is winning, no one says a word, wherever you've been before.

In hindsight, if he'd waited Rafa (left) would probably have got the Newcastle job again.

But it wasn't available at the time, and how could he have known what would happen with the owners?

As it goes, he's got a massive rebuilding job on his hands at Everton, too, because they need a total overhaul.

I certainly don't think it's right for him to get all the blame.

It doesn't matter who you are or what the job is, if you are not given the tools, then you can't do it.

I would be looking at who recommended those players they signed, who decided they were worth the money.

If anyone should be in the dock, it's them.

It seems to me that the ones who have been anything like a success are the ones who cost peanuts or came through the youth team.

Lads like Seamus Coleman — even though he had a bit of a shocker in the derby — Calvert-Lewin and young Anthony Gordon.

Obviously, when it's not going

well it's always going to be in the background about having managed at Anfield, but that's got nothing to do with it.

You do have to ask what would actually be a success for Everton, though, because with that squad I do think finishing seventh is about the best they can hope for.

I've always had a soft spot for Goodison. It's a proper club, full of tradition, right in among houses and the fans are very knowledgeable.

I used to love going there back in the days of Howard Kendall, Alan Ball and Colin Harvey, when they were a top team.

And then again obviously they had all that success in the 1980s. But these are different times, they're a world away from that level now.

The supporters have to accept where they are rather than who the manager is, because no one is going to walk in and turn it around.

You go to a Manchester City, Liverpool or Chelsea and think, 'I can't go wrong with this lot', but no one's doing anything at Everton without spending a lot of money.

They are where they are because they're not very good.

You can only be a great coach if you've got great players — and they haven't.

It's as simple as that.



SURPRISE... Aubameyang is subbed by Arteta

Art quick to deny Auba rift rumours



By **MARK IRWIN**

MIKEL ARTETA says he does not have a problem with Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang — despite hauling him off against Manchester United.

The Arsenal captain was subbed with his team trailing 3-2 on Thursday, causing Gunners legend Thierry Henry (below) to claim: "Something is not right."

And fellow pundit Alan Shearer added: "He's your go-to guy, the skipper, and you're in desperate need of a goal."

"So I think that tells you all is not well if the manager's dragging him off."

But boss Arteta is adamant he is not trying to humiliate the struggling striker,



who has not scored in his last five games.

He said: "I can guarantee you that there is not a rift with Auba."

"I have to respect the opinion of these people but I can tell you that I have the relationship I want with him."

"When I make decisions with 15, 20 minutes left or in the starting line-up, it is done with only one intention, to get the best out of the team."

"You are always concerned when your main striker isn't scoring, but Auba is trying his hardest."

"He is aware of how much we need him as a team to score goals and at the moment they're not coming."

"But the rest of the things we're asking him to do, he is trying his best."

Having lost their last two away games, Arteta knows it is vital Arsenal get back on track against Everton tomorrow.

He added: "This league has become so competitive that the moment you lose a game or two, the pressure is coming."

ARSENAL (likely): Ramsdale, Tomiyasu, White, Gabriel, Tierney, Partey, Lokonga, Saka, Odegaard, Smith Rowe, Aubameyang.

Raf form is not turn-off

By **FRANKIE CHRISTOU**

EVERTON boss Rafa Benitez is not concerned his side's poor form will push players out the door in January.

Benitez has come under fire after the 4-1 midweek Merseyside derby defeat saw the club go EIGHT games without a win.

And injured star striker Dominic Calvert-Lewin has been linked with a move to tomorrow's visitors Arsenal.

But the 61-year-old Spaniard insists their form will not force the club into sales or affect their ability to sign targets.

He said: "If we don't want to sell players, we don't need to. If we sell players, it is because we want to sell players."

"Our market is clear — there are players you can get and players you cannot."

"We need to know these players want to come. In terms of our players, they cannot go if we don't want them to."

EVERTON (likely): Pickford, Coleman, Mina, Keane, Digne, Doucoure, Allan, Dolph, Townsend, Richardson, Gray.

PREM TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man City	15	11	2	2	32	9	35
Liverpool	15	10	4	1	44	12	34
Chelsea	15	10	3	2	35	9	33
West Ham	15	8	3	4	28	19	27
Arsenal	14	7	2	5	17	20	23
Tottenham	13	7	1	5	13	17	22
Man Utd	14	6	3	5	24	24	21
Wolves	15	6	3	6	12	13	21
Brighton	15	4	8	3	14	16	20
Leicester	14	5	4	5	22	25	19
Crystal Palace	14	3	7	4	19	20	16
Brentford	14	4	4	6	17	19	16
Aston Villa	14	5	1	8	19	23	16
Southampton	15	3	7	5	14	21	16
Everton	14	4	3	7	14	21	16
Leeds	14	3	6	5	13	20	15
Watford	15	4	1	10	20	29	13
Burnley	14	1	7	6	14	21	10
Newcastle	15	1	7	7	17	30	10
Norwich	14	2	4	8	8	28	10

THEY'RE NO MO... but Calvert-Lewin, Coleman and Gordon have been Everton's most successful players





BELLINGHAM... angry

'Fixer' ref slammed by Jude

By ALEC SHILTON

JUDE BELLINGHAM rapped a ref for being a 'match fixer' after his Borussia Dortmund side lost 3-2 to rivals Bayern Munich.

Bayern hitman Robert Lewandowski scored a penalty winner after Mats Hummels was adjudged to have handled by official Felix Zwayer — who was banned for six months after taking a €300 bribe in 2005.

England star Bellingham, 18, said: "You give a referee that has match-fixed before, the biggest game in Germany... what do you expect?"

"It wasn't a penalty. Hummels is not even looking at the ball and he's fighting to get it. You can look at a lot of other decisions in the game."

Bellingham teed up both Dortmund's goals, scored by Julian Brandt and Erling Haaland.

But a double from Lewandowski and a Kingsley Coman strike extended Bayern's lead to four points over Dortmund.

Ed up for big three

EXCLUSIVE by ALAN NIXON

EDDIE HOWE wants Atletico Madrid's Kieran Trippier and Burnley's Ben Mee and James Tarkowski at Newcastle.

The new Toon boss is pushing to sign Premier League experience for their survival fight.

Trippier would cost around £25million and demand big wages.

Howe also wants Turf Moor pair Tarkowski AND Mee, who are out of contract in the summer.

Moves for Hoffenheim's Florian Grillitsch and Dusan Vlahovic of Fiorentina are on the radar as well.

Cook on off Switch

IPSWICH last night sacked boss Paul Cook after just nine months in charge.

The axe fell after Town were held to a goalless draw at home to League Two strugglers Barrow in the FA Cup second round.

Former Wigan and Portsmouth boss Cook, 54, was appointed in March and won only 13 of his 44 games in charge.

Chief executive Mark Ashton said: "I know how much Paul wanted to succeed at this club."

"However, following discussions with the board, we have decided a change is needed for our long-term interests."

PREMIER LEAGUE



ASTON

By DAVE KIDD

CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

THEY are united by the most infamous slip in English footballing history — and were divided by the most bitter rivalry in the British game.

Today, Brendan Rodgers and Steven Gerrard — manager and captain of Liverpool during the Anfield Spring, plus former Old Firm dugout rivals — renew acquaintances on the touchline at Villa Park.

And while their relationship wasn't always smooth, there is a genuine mutual respect, with Gerrard knowing that Rodgers represents a realistic benchmark for him in his new role.

If Gerrard can achieve at Villa what Rodgers has managed at Leicester after moving from Glasgow to the Midlands — an FA Cup and two fifth-placed finishes — he would go down as his new club's finest manager of the Premier League era.

The dynamic between Rodgers and Gerrard on Merseyside was a fascinating one.

When Rodgers arrived from Swansea, aged 38, Gerrard was at the peak of his powers but Liverpool were in a long slump.

The first true impressions of Rodgers as Anfield chief came in the infamous 'Being: Liverpool' documentary, in which the Northern Irishman appears naive and cheery, with David Brent inclinations.

Before his first campaign in charge kicks off, Rodgers is seen addressing his players in a team meeting, in which he claims that the names of three of his squad and staff who will 'let us down' over the season have been sealed inside three envelopes.

Gerrard can be seen at the centre of the front row, head down, trying to avoid eye contact, and even seeming to pick his nose while Rodgers dispenses his psychobabble and flannel.

It wasn't the most auspicious of starts but they developed a successful relationship, Gerrard regarding Rodgers as an excellent coach, with the manager having an obvious admiration for the leadership qualities of one of England's finest footballers of the last half-century.

In Rodgers' second season, Liverpool staged a thrilling bid for the Premier League crown.

They are a club which idolise their former managers, literally making icons of the most successful bosses on the Kop, where Soviet-style images of Bill

Shankly, Bob Paisley, Kenny Dalglish and Rafa Benitez are flown in tribute.

Rodgers, however, has been airbrushed from the club's history — a non-person — despite that Anfield Spring, when 11 straight Premier League victories in a 16-match unbeaten run had the Reds top of the table with three games to play.

That run, skippered by Gerrard in a quarterback role which Rodgers carved out for him, featured a front three of Luis Suarez, Raheem Sterling and Daniel Sturridge.

And the latter two benefited significantly from Rodgers' management qualities.

Then came Gerrard's extraordinary slip, to let in Demba Ba, as Jose Mourinho's Chelsea won at Anfield to end Liverpool's streak. All realistic hopes of the title were lost when the Reds blew a three-goal lead to draw at Crystal Palace. It remains a

great 'if only' for Rodgers, as well as for Gerrard, who never won the Premier League.

He admits now he regrets not staying for another season under Rodgers, rather than heading for an unsatisfactory swansong in MLS with LA Galaxy.

Had Liverpool won that title, Rodgers may have gone on to build a dynasty at Anfield — and ended up with his moosh on one of those flags.

But his reign never recovered and attempting to manage the decline of Gerrard's playing career, in his last season as a Liverpool player the following year, became a thorny issue.

Gerrard's final match in May 2015 was a 6-1 thrashing at Stoke, with Liverpool five down at half-time. A miserable end to the duo's working relationship.

Rodgers then rehabilitated his reputation in an impressive spell as Celtic boss. But in his final six months at Parkhead, Gerrard

took over as Rangers' boss and, at the second time of asking, secured his club's first Old Firm victory in six years.

Now Gerrard has made an impressive start in the Premier League — two wins followed by a narrow defeat against champions Manchester City.

Beating a Rodgers side today would be special for the Scouser. And one thing is for certain — Rodgers never wrote Gerrard's name in one of those envelopes.

SLIP KNOT

Duo tied by history

VARDY'S GOT YEARS IN HIM

JAMIE VARDY has what it takes to extend his career for 'many more' years — according to Steven Gerrard.

Vardy, 35 next month, shows no sign of bringing his career to an end.

And Gerrard, 41, says the Foxes legend (right) is still a danger to Prem sides as his Villa outfit prepare to host Leicester today.

Gerrard called time on his playing days at 36 — but Vardy has invested in fitness and cryotherapy equipment at home to do what he can to extend his career beyond that.

And although Gerrard's playing career only overlapped with Vardy for one Prem season, the Villa boss is well aware of the

By GRAHAM HILL

threat the striker, who has nine goals this term, poses. Gerrard said: "He's someone we'll have to guard against. All the evidence suggests he's in good shape and still producing at this level, so I don't see any reason why he'd want to call it a day."

"As an ex-player, the advice I'd give is to play as long as you can. "If you feel good then carry on — I was someone who missed it once I'd decided to stop."

"He's a top finisher but he also has the hunger and mentality to want to score goals and win games for much longer."

"I see him playing on for many more years."



Gerrard wishes he had stayed a Red

STEVEN GERRARD regrets not accepting Brendan Rodgers' offer of another year at Liverpool.

Gerrard comes face-to-face with his old boss today when Aston Villa host Rodgers' Leicester.

But the Villa manager, 41, says he had the chance to extend his Premier League career as a player six years ago — but decided to go to MLS side LA Galaxy instead.

Former Liverpool skipper Gerrard did not want to stay on at Anfield as a squad player — but feels now he made a mistake.

He said: "The one little regret I have is not accepting the one-year contract I was offered at Liverpool under Brendan."

"But I felt I was caught between a rock and a hard place."

"I wanted to stay, I wanted the journey to continue. Maybe in

By GRAHAM HILL

hindsight, I should have signed the one-year extension. But, at the same time, I wasn't starting as many games as I would have liked."

"And Brendan was making it clear that my game time was going to be more limited in terms of what I was used to."

"I wasn't as excited about becoming a squad player compared to my previous role. It was a combination of things."

Rodgers was sacked by Liverpool just two months into the following season.

Having gone to California, Gerrard retired from the game aged 36.

He added: "The reason I eventually called it a day as a player was that I didn't want to stay in America for an extra year. I wanted to get back to my family."

VILLA v LEICESTER CITY

4.30pm
sky sports



NO OLDS BARRED . . .
Gerrard and Rodgers went close to winning the title together at Liverpool but were on opposite sides of Old Firm rivalry (below)



TITLE SLIPPING AWAY . . . Gerrard's tumble lets Demba Ba in against Chelsea in 2014



FOFANA . . . long injury

Rodgers: Get back to basics

By GRAHAM HILL

BRENDAN RODGERS insists his side need to 'cut out the mistakes' if Leicester are to challenge the top six again this season.

The Foxes boss has been hit by injuries to key men Wesley Fofana and James Justin at the back.

But Rodgers is not happy that Leicester's leaking defence has been giving away 'simple' goals. They have only managed one clean sheet in the league — on the opening day — the worst return in the top flight.

With a crucial Europa League clash at Napoli this week, Rodgers said: "Defending's a collective effort, we have some brilliant guys in the team."

"But this season it's a challenge with the players who have been missing and the number of games. "We have to accept it — but be better."

"In the last three games or so we've shown if we can cut out the mistakes we'll be OK."

"Players like Wes and JJ, we want them back but we can't expect them to hit the ground running straight away."

"It's very hard over the course of this month to go for the whole 90 minutes."

"But you have to be able to see games through and not give away what we would consider to be simple goals."

"It's about retaining calmness and concentration to get the result."

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PREMIER LEAGUE

MAN UTD

Prof can seal it with a K.I.S

HE MAY be known as The Professor, who will leave no stone unturned in his mission to get Manchester United back on their feet.

But if Ralf Rangnick wants to bring the glory days back to Old Trafford, there is one rule which trumps all the science: **Keep It Simple.**

Few people have played under more managerial greats than Tony Woodcock, a title winner and European champion in England before a hugely successful move to Germany.

Woodcock (right) had five years under Brian Clough and worked with the likes of Rinus Michels, Udo Lattek and Christian Daum in two spells with FC Cologne. And while Rangnick has a reputation for attention to the smallest detail, Woodcock reckons the true greats never tried to over-complicate football.

He said: "We all know about Clough, and how successful he was.

"Well, what he always used to say was that the hardest thing to do is keep it simple.

"Cloughie would tell us, 'You only use the skills you have to get out of

EXCLUSIVE by PHIL THOMAS

the tightest situations or when you have to make a quick decision'.

"You talk about Michels, and his Total Football with Holland, and it was the same.

"He knew his side was talented but he worked on play and move, play and move. As simple as that.

"All Cloughie would ask us to do were things every footballer could do.

"Rinus used to say that he had 16 internationals in his squad at Cologne and four forwards.

"But he wasn't expecting us to score three goals every week. All he wanted was for us to be fit, help our team-mates and show proper commitment.

"If he got that from every player, he'd say we would never drop below 80 per cent.

"He used to tell everyone, 'It's no good hitting 100 per cent one week then dropping to 60 for the next three. Do that and we will get beaten'.

"Every coach I played under knew we could play football, but all any of them expected was to see us do the simple things.

"Football is 11 against 11. It's not complicated, so don't make it so."



MORE RANG FOR JUR BUCKS

Special agent Ralf got Klopp pay deal



ZLAT'S AWFUL

ZLATAN IBRAHIMOVIC has slammed Manchester United's 'small club mentality' after revealing he was docked £1 for taking a juice from a hotel mini-bar.

The AC Milan striker, 40, had a successful two-year spell at Old Trafford but reveals in his new autobiography *Adrenaline* he found a 'small, closed mentality' highlighted by the penny-pinching.

After noticing the missing pound, he revealed: "I called the team manager: 'Excuse me, why have they taken a pound off my salary?' He told me: 'It was the fruit juice from the mini-bar.' 'Are you kidding, seriously?' 'No, I'm not.'"

"Can you believe it? A quid? Something like that would never happen in Italy."

Bob's snub to haunt Eagles

THERE is an extra reason for Ralf Rangnick to want a win over Crystal Palace today — they snubbed him 15 YEARS ago.

Manchester United new-boy Rangnick was close to getting the Eagles manager's job in summer 2006 when he was interviewed by director of football Bob Dowie for the post.

Palace were looking to replace Bob's brother Iain as boss after losing a play-off semi to end their hopes of an immediate bounce back to the Prem.

Rangnick, who had already cut his teeth at Schalke, suggested he could bring in the German club's young goalkeeper Manuel Neuer as one of his first signings.

But Palace supremo

By ALAN NIXON

Dowie took an easier option going for Peter Taylor and Palace paid around £300,000 to Hull in compensation.

Dowie knew Taylor from a spell together at Hendon and the former England caretaker-boss jumped at a move to London, though it did not work out.

A few months later Dowie left Palace and has not had a senior role in football since.

Rangnick took the upset on the chin and instead embarked on one of his biggest successes — back-to-back promotions that took Hoffenheim into the German top flight.

Neuer went on to join Bayern Munich and became one of the best keepers in the world.

PALS... Ralf and Klopp with German Super Cup in 2011



V CRYSTAL PALACE

2pm



RB Don over

JADON SANCHE would have been lining up under Ralf Rangnick for the second time if Manchester United's new boss had got his way **FOUR** years ago.

When Sancho, 21, (right) turned down a contract and swapped the Manchester City academy for Germany, Rangnick tried to talk the teenager into joining him at Leipzig. Instead he opted for Borussia Dortmund, where he was a huge

By **PHIL THOMAS**

success before last summer's £73million move to Old Trafford. Rangnick revealed: "I saw Jadon playing for England Under-19s in Portugal.



"Jadon was so impressive I watched him in the next couple of games and tried to sign him for RB Leipzig.

"But he decided to join Dortmund and he developed extremely well."

PAT JOY OF 6

PATRICK VIEIRA has passed the 'six-game' test that all big-name stars face when they go into management.

By **JON WEST**

So says Osian Roberts, who oversaw his transformation from ex-Arsenal Invincible to Crystal Palace boss.

Vieira (right) was set to be in the dugout at Old Trafford today after missing training on Friday because of an "urgent family matter".

Roberts was Wales FA's technical director

when Vieira studied for his coaching badges in the principality.

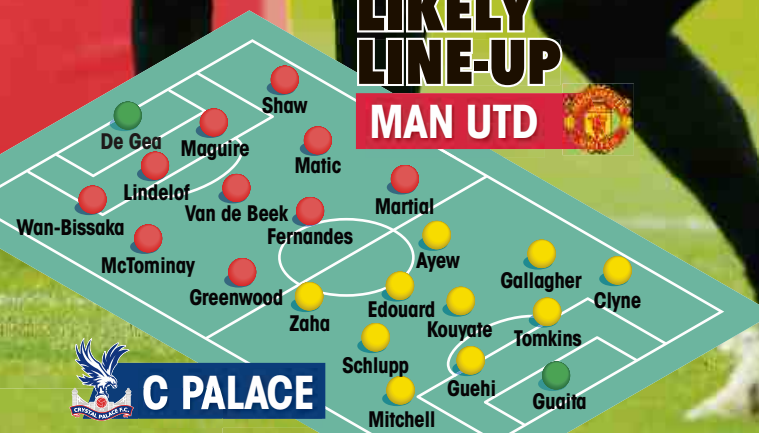
Now Vieira's No2, he says the Frenchman has an edge due to his career. He said: "It maybe gives them the first six games. When they walk into a room they have that aura, that personality.



"But after a short period of time players will make their minds up as to whether or not this former great player can coach or manage."

LIKELY LINE-UP

MAN UTD



GERMAN LESSON...
Rangnick takes training and his Man United stars will have to adapt quickly

Haid 'n seek

AMADOU HAIDARA will become Ralf Rangnick's first signing next month — if Manchester United pay his £32million release clause now.

By **PHIL THOMAS**

The Mali midfielder (right), 23, was tipped for an Old Trafford move the minute Rangnick was announced as United manager.

The clause with Bundesliga side RB Leipzig kicks in next summer.

But if the Red Devils cough up the full amount in January,

Leipzig have hinted they will let him go at once.

Sources in Germany claim Rangnick — who took him to Leipzig from Salzburg two years ago — has already spoken to his agent and a deal is all but agreed.



Haidara, who says he grew up as a United fan, scored his first

Champions League goal against the Old Trafford outfit when Leipzig beat them 3-2 a year ago.

RALF RANGNICK arrives in Manchester hailed as the Messiah who can knock Liverpool and Co off their perch — yet it is Kop fans who should be giving thanks.

Two decades ago, Rangnick's words of wisdom helped set Jurgen Klopp on the road to management, eventually leading him all the way to Anfield.

In 2001, the new Old Trafford gaffer was earning rave reviews as one of Germany's brightest young bosses, when his big pal Klopp was up for his first job at Mainz. Klopp rang for advice, as he had no agent and little idea of what he should ask for.

Rangnick was happy to steer him in the right direction, he ended up getting the job — on the terms he wanted — and so began the career which took him to Merseyside.

Hours before he took his first

By **PHIL THOMAS**



training session with United, he chuckled at the memory of that phone call and what it led to.

Rangnick, 63, said: "We've known each other since 1997. I was not his mentor — that was a coach called Wolfgang Frank — but we have always been in contact and had a good relationship.

"I remember before Jurgen became head coach at Mainz and he called me, to see what kind of money he should be asking for.

"He didn't have an agent, so I told him. In a way, I was his agent and advised him what to go for.

"Jurgen said, 'Do you think that is too much to ask?' I told him it was the right thing to do — and I am sure he got what he wanted!"

Needless to say, Klopp didn't get

a similar call for his thoughts when Rangnick had the chance to head to England himself.

But Klopp made it clear he expects his mate to be a hit, admitting United's manager spells bad news for the rest of the Prem.

And Rangnick is under no illusions about the size of his task.

He added: "I'm more than optimistic but also have to be realistic.

"Five weeks ago, our team lost 5-0 against Liverpool and it could have been a lot more to be honest.

"Against City it was 2-0 — but it could also have been more.

"It was important to get a point at Chelsea, yet the performance? I don't know.

"They had 24 shots on goal and we had three.

"So right now, to say that I will challenge the top Premier League managers in the next few weeks or months, is not realistic.

Boys, then Norwich, then Brighton and then Brentford.

"The games against Chelsea, Liverpool and Manchester City will be in March and April — and that's when I will answer the question about challenging them."

Klopp isn't the only man who has a debt to Rangnick. Chelsea chief Thomas Tuchel played under him at Ulm, before a knee injury ended his playing days.

Two years later, after moving to Stuttgart, he gave Tuchel his big coaching break in charge of the Under-15s — and set the wheels of another career in motion.

Whether he follows Tuchel's lead and makes Manchester United European champions after half a season in charge, is of course highly doubtful.

But it wouldn't be the first time Rangnick has worked miracles — in fact he has made a habit of it.

Rangnick said: "When I started at Ulm they were a third-division

club and in two years we won two promotions and multiplied the attendance.

"And the same happened in Hannover over three years.

"Then the first spell at Schalke, which is also one of biggest clubs in Germany.

"And in six years at Hoffenheim, a small village of 3,000, we were top of the Bundesliga after two consecutive promotions.

"That was a fairytale story. When I went there they had 1,000 fans — and two years later we sold out every home game.

"In nine years at Red Bull Leipzig, we went from level four to the Champions League.

"United are completely different. This is the biggest club I have worked for, the biggest club in the world.

"To play in front of those 75,000 fans is challenging, encouraging and motivating. You have to cherish that and enjoy it — if not, you're in the wrong ball game."

thesun.co.uk/sport

Sun Sport



That's Howe to get going

By OSCAR PAUL
NEWCASTLE'S season finally has lift-off at the 15th attempt after they beat Burnley.
Callum Wilson's 40th-minute strike gave Eddie Howe (left) his first win as boss — and the Toon's first since May.
Howe's side are now off the foot of the Prem table.
And scorer Wilson said: "It

Newcastle.....1
Burnley.....0

has been a long time coming. Hopefully this is a catalyst for other things.
"We knew there would be a turning point — hopefully this is it."
Match report — Goals P1, 2, 3



ED ON BLOCK IN BLUES KO

By DAVE KIDD

THOMAS TUCHEL slammed Chelsea's "big mistakes" as two Edouard Mendy blunders gifted West Ham a sweet derby win.

The Blues keeper was embarrassed by Arthur Masuaku's mis-hit cross for the Hammers' winner.

Mendy earlier made another howler as he conceded a penalty — scored by Manuel Lanzini — after failing to clear a back-pass and fouling Jarrod Bowen.

Chelsea's second Premier League defeat of the season saw them slip from top to third and boss Tuchel admits his No1

West Ham.....3
Chelsea.....2

keeper is now suffering a confidence crisis.

He said: "He could have saved the situation, he did not. We are far from blaming anybody but we need to admit we are making too many crucial mistakes."

"We made individual mistakes against Manchester United and against Watford and got punished."

"If you want to have results at this level you have to limit the mistakes. That's the story."

"Edu is going through a rough period. I don't know why exactly. "It seems he has lost a bit of

confidence. OK, the decision-making was not at the highest for their first goal but we also brought him into an awkward situation.

"We made a horrible pass back and you cannot do that. It was way too many mistakes."

"We clearly see we are giving easy goals away. It is unusual."

"If you invite a team like West Ham into your own box, then you are in trouble. This is a no-brainer."

Tuchel, already missing crooked N'Golo Kante for the last three games, also lost Kai Havertz and Marcos Alonso to injury.

He added: "I have no idea when N'Golo will be back."

Match report — Goals P4, 5



Southampton..1 Brighton..1

SEE GOALS PAGE 9

Wolves.....0 Liverpool.....1

SEE GOALS PAGES 10, 11

RANGNICK GETS TEETH INTO

Munchester



SCRAN UTD ... dinner with Fergie is on the menu

● **RALF'S FERGIE DINNER DATE AS HE PLOTS REVIVAL**

● **NO QUICK FIX IN BID TO BE 'PRESSING MONSTERS'**

By PHIL THOMAS

RALF RANGNICK plans a dinner date with Sir Alex Ferguson to thrash out how to drag Manchester United back to their feet.

But the new Old Trafford gaffer admits there is no quick fix to turn his side into the "pressing monsters" he wants.

Rangnick, who leads the team for the first time against Crystal Palace today, built his reputation on high-octane, all-action methods in Germany.

But he knows it will take time to get his message across — and to learn how best to implement those methods alongside the United DNA their most famous manager helped to create. He

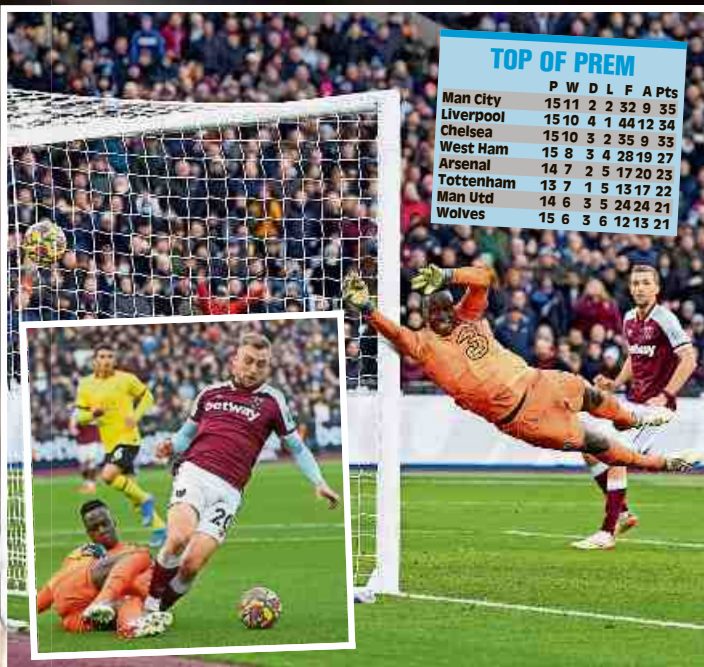
Yet another Silva salvo



By CHARLIE WYETT
BERNARDO SILVA scored another wonderful goal to fire Manchester City top of the Prem for the first time this season. He netted twice after Raheem Sterling's early header, including an incredible solo effort. Silva (left), who also hit a brilliant volley on Wednesday, said: "The last few

goals have been quite good." Boss Pep Guardiola hailed Silva as the best player in the Prem this week and added: "I want to say 'thank you' because he didn't make me wrong. He is so important." Match report — Goals P6, 7

Watford.....1
Manchester City.....3



BLUE... boss Tuchel left frustrated after Mendy's errors (above) **Pics: RICHARD PELHAM**

TOP OF PREM						
	P	W	D	L	F	A
Man City	15	11	2	2	32	9
Liverpool	15	10	4	1	44	12
Chelsea	15	10	3	2	35	9
West Ham	15	8	3	4	28	19
Arsenal	14	7	2	5	17	20
Tottenham	13	7	1	5	13	17
Man Utd	14	6	3	5	24	21
Wolves	15	6	3	6	12	13



ALL SMILES... Hamilton celebrates another pole

LAX MAX DONATES LEW POLE

LEWIS HAMILTON'S title hopes were given a HUGE boost after he clinched pole at the Saudi Arabian Grand Prix.

From BEN HUNT

The world champion, 36, escaped punishment for two offences and saw championship leader Max Verstappen crash out of qualifying. In dramatic scenes in Jeddah, the Red Bull man looked nailed on for pole until he hit barriers at the final corner. It means Hamilton starts on pole for the penultimate race of the championship where a victory — and a bonus point for the fastest lap — would wipe out Verstappen's eight-point lead going to the season's finale in Abu Dhabi next week. Hamilton, who is searching for a record eighth world crown, said: "We have to win. That is where all the prep has been going towards. Collectively we have to be smart and work together as a team but also just enjoy it. It is a night race, a new track and lots of unknowns. I got that lap right at the end that was good enough, but if Max had finished his lap he would have been ahead. Regardless I am happy." Verstappen, who starts third behind Hamilton's Mercedes team-mate Valtteri Bottas, added: "It is extremely disappointing. It was a good car in qualifying and everything seemed to be coming together. Unfortunately I couldn't finish the lap so it was extremely disappointing. It seems that we can fight, we have the pace. The aim is to win the race."

Full story — P56, 57

OLD TRAFFORD JOB

United



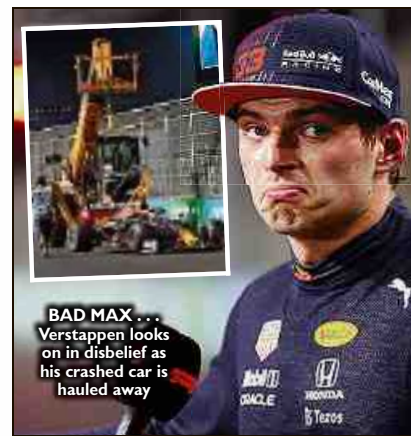
Man Utd v C Palace
2pm

said: "You have to be aware of what kind of players you have and where they stand. I cannot ask things of them that they can't deliver right now. I have to take them and accept where they currently are. I cannot turn the players we have into the pressing monsters I want them to be within two, three or four weeks. "The same happened to Jurgen Klopp when he went to Liverpool in the middle of the season. "They had a lot of injuries in that time — muscle injuries — because they were not used to that kind of training, so you have to be smart. Then you

must make sure you have the best possible recruitment and sign the best players for this kind of football, and have the best manager to develop, coach and train them." Now Rangnick, who looks set to be without Cristiano Ronaldo through injury, plans to sit down with Fergie and pick his brains. He added: "He only came back from New York on Thursday and has to stay at home because of quarantine and Covid regulations. "But I am very much looking forward to meeting him over the next two or three weeks. "Darren Fletcher told me he wants to arrange a mutual lunch or dinner with him. "The important thing is to celebrate this DNA the club still has, but implement it into the transformation to modern football.

You need to have a certain idea of what we want to stand for. How do we want to be seen? "How do we want to play and how do our fans want us to play?" Rangnick, 63, will be manager for the rest of the season and could continue for two years if that is a success, or he will then take on a two-year consultancy role. And he wants to find his own place for when his partner arrives, rather than living in a hotel as Jose Mourinho famously did throughout his time in charge. Rangnick said: "I am looking for an apartment in Hale and hopefully will find one, in the next three or four days." More Rang for Jur bucks — P64, 65

PRESSING MATTERS
... Rangnick wants to get his methods across quickly



BAD MAX... Verstappen looks on in disbelief as his crashed car is hauled away

**Avoid breathing Covid-19
onto others by wearing
a face covering in enclosed,
busy spaces.**

Around 1 in 3 people who have Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be breathing it out without knowing. So when you go out, wear a face covering in enclosed busy spaces, to help reduce the amount of Covid-19 particles in the air.



**STOP COVID-19
HANGING AROUND**

Newcastle.....1
Burnley....0

Sunday,
December 5, 2021

goals

in association with

William HILL

STAR IN STRIPES ...
Wilson celebrates
his first-half winner

By OSCAR PAUL

EMOTIONAL Eddie Howe believes Newcastle's growing relationship with the fans can lift them out of trouble.

The Magpies boss pumped his fists, hugged No2 Jason Tindall and led the celebrations with the Toon Army after claiming the club's first Prem win in 195 days.

Callum Wilson's 40th-minute goal gave the new owners three points for the first time. And Howe said: "The relationship we

Turn to Page 3

WHERE THERE'S A
WIL ... Toon ace
Callum Wilson finds
the roof of the net

ABOUT
TYNE TOO!

Wilson ends 195-day wait for win

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GOALS PREMIER LEAGUE

195

NEWCASTLE recorded their first win in 16 matches — and 195 days — in all competitions, having lost seven and drawn eight of their previous 15.

THE WEEK AHEAD	
(7.45 unless stated)	
TODAY	
PREMIER LEAGUE	
Aston Villa v Leicester.....	4.30
Leeds v Brentford.....	2.0
Man Utd v Crystal Palace.....	2.0
Tottenham v Norwich.....	2.0
SKY BET CHAMPIONSHIP	
QPR v Stoke.....	2.30
EMIRATES FA CUP	
SECOND ROUND	
Colchester v Wigan.....	12.30
Kidderminster v FC Halifax.....	4.0
Rochdale v Plymouth.....	12.15
Salford City v Chesterfield.....	5.15
CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP	
Dundee Utd v Celtic.....	12.0
Livingston v Hearts.....	(3.0)
VITALITY WOMEN'S FA CUP	
2020/21 FINAL	
Arsenal v Chelsea.....	2.0
FA WOMEN'S LEAGUE CUP	
GROUP A - Blackburn v Sheff Utd	
(12.0), Sunderland v Aston Villa (12.0),	
GROUP B - Everton v Durham (1.0), Man	
Utd v Leicester (12.0)	
TOMORROW	
PREMIER LEAGUE	
Everton v Arsenal.....	8.0
EMIRATES FA CUP	
SECOND ROUND	
Boreham Wood v St Albans.....	
TUESDAY	
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
GROUP A	
PSG v Club Brugge.....	5.45
RB Leipzig v Man City.....	5.45
GROUP B	
AC Milan v Liverpool.....	8.0
FC Porto v Atletico Madrid.....	8.0
GROUP C	
Ajax v Sporting.....	8.0
Borussia Dortmund v Besiktas.....	8.0
GROUP D	
Real Madrid v Inter Milan.....	8.0
Shakhtar Donetsk v Sheriff.....	8.0
SKY BET LEAGUE ONE	
Accrington v AFC Wimbledon.....	
Charlton v Ipswich.....	
Cheltenham v Cambridge Utd.....	
Crewe v Lincoln City.....	
Doncaster v Oxford Utd.....	
Fleetwood Town v Bolton.....	
Portsmouth v Sheff Wed.....	
Rotherham v Gillingham.....	
Sunderland v Morecambe.....	
Weymouth v Burton Albion.....	
SKY BET LEAGUE TWO	
Bristol Rovers v Port Vale.....	
Exeter v Northampton.....	
Harrogate Town v Forest Green.....	
Leyton Orient v Swindon.....	
Mansfield v Carlisle.....	
Newport County v Sutton Utd.....	
Oldham v Tranmere.....	
Stevenage v Scunthorpe.....	
Walsall v Crawley Town.....	
SCOTTISH CUP THIRD ROUND	
REPLAYS - Morton v Inverness CT,	
Queen of South v Cove Rangers	
CINCH LEAGUE ONE - Montrose v Air-	
drieonians	
CINCH LEAGUE TWO - Elgin v Kelly	
Hearts	
VANARAMA NATIONAL - Southend v	
Maidenhead Utd	
VANARAMA NORTH - Gateshead v	
York, Guiseley v Southport	
VANARAMA SOUTH - Ebbsfleet	
United v Bath City, Hampton & Richmond	
v Brantree Tn	
WEDNESDAY	
UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE	
GROUP E	
Bayern Munich v Barcelona.....	8.0
Benfica v Dynamo Kiev.....	8.0
GROUP F	
Atalanta v Villarreal.....	8.0
Man Utd v Young Boys.....	8.0
GROUP G	
RB Salzburg v Sevilla.....	8.0
Wolfsburg v Lille.....	8.0
GROUP H	
Juventus v Malmo FF.....	5.45
Zenit v Chelsea.....	5.45
SKY BET LEAGUE ONE	
MK Dons v Plymouth.....	
Wigan v Shrewsbury.....	
SKY BET LEAGUE TWO	
Barrow v Salford City.....	
Bradford v Colchester.....	
Hartlepool v Rochdale.....	
CINCH SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP	
Livingston v Hibernian.....	
UEFA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONS	
LEAGUE GROUP A - Chelsea v Ju-	
ventus (8.0), Servette v Wolfsburg (5.45)	
GROUP B - Breidablik v Real Madrid (8.0),	
Zhytyobud-1 v PSG (5.45)	
THURSDAY	
UEFA EUROPA LEAGUE	
GROUP A	
Lyon v Rangers.....	5.45
Sparta Prague v Brondby.....	5.45
GROUP B	
Real Sociedad v PSV.....	5.45
Sturm Graz v Monaco.....	5.45
GROUP C	
Legia Warsaw v S Moscow.....	5.45
Napoli v Leicester.....	5.45
GROUP D	
Antwerp v Olympiacos.....	5.45
Fenerbahce v Eintracht Frank-	
furt.....	5.45
GROUP E	
Lazio v Galatasaray.....	8.0
Marseille v L Moscow.....	8.0
GROUP F	
Braga v Red Star Belgrade.....	8.0
Ludogorets v FC Midtjylland.....	8.0
GROUP G	
Celtic v Real Betis.....	8.0
Ferencváros v B Leverkusen.....	8.0
GROUP H	
Genk v Rapid Vienna.....	8.0
West Ham v Dinamo Zagreb.....	8.0



HISTORY CALLING

Great escape dream is alive

HAPPY TOON... Callum Wilson lashes in the winner

in association with



8

BURNLEY have failed to win any of their first eight away games in a Premier League season for the third time (D4 L4) — also doing so in 2009-10 and 2016-17.

5

CALLUM WILSON has scored five of his six Premier League goals this season at St James' Park, as many as he had bagged there in the 2020-21 campaign.

By OSCAR PAUL

FIFTY-NINE days since the Saudis rode into Toon, Newcastle **FINALLY** have lift-off.

Without a win since May, the fear of relegation was starting to stink the place out.

Now, after Callum Wilson's first-half strike, the great escape is on.

Nobody has ever survived having failed to win any of their opening 14 games.

Yet on Friday, manager Eddie Howe bullishly said: "Why not change history?"

Well, why not indeed? Because Newcastle are off the bottom and within touching distance of safety.

Twenty-seven days after his appointment, this was Howe's first win at the fourth time of asking.

Other than the 10,000 allowed into St James' Park to see the 1-0 win against Sheffield United on the penultimate game of last season, Newcastle had not tasted victory at home in front of fans since beating Chelsea in January 2020.

With a limited squad across the whole pitch, you will not find clubs lining up to buy many of the players.

But in Callum Wilson they have a true talisman who should not be messing around in the bottom three.

This was his sixth goal of the season and only Mohamed Salah, Jamie Vardy, Sadio Mane and Diogo Jota have scored more.

Coming in the 40th minute, it was one of the most important goals seen

Newcastle.....1
Wilson 40
Burnley.....0

at St James' Park in years. Burnley keeper Nick Pope spilled Joe Willock's cross, dropping the ball into Wilson's path. The striker then took a couple of touches to find some room before blasting it into the roof of the net.

And Toon just about held on, with the scenes at full-time as if they had won the league.

Not quite. All this does is drag them off the foot of the table.

But now, after months of misery, there is hope on Tyneside once more.

Howe and the players did a lap of honour after the game, with the 52,000 jubilant Geordies lapping up every second before they spilled into town to drink the Bigg Market dry.

Confidence is what this team needed, and confidence is what they've now got.

Leicester away next week all of a sudden looks winnable and survival all of a sudden looks achievable for the Saudi Arabia-owned Mags.

The Clarets were unbeaten in five but winless on the road in eight.

But for all Sean Dyche's warriors controlled the opening half, Toon went into the break 1-0 up via Wilson's expert strike after 40 minutes.

This match was never going to be easy on the eye — and so it proved.

Tight and scrappy, it is the sort of game Dyche probably goes to bed

hoping to dream about. Burnley did not create a host of great chances during the first half — until injury-time — but always looked in control.

Maxwel Cornet had the first opportunity but flashed wide on his right peg.

Johann Gudmundsson then rattled the near post after his shot from the left of the box deflected off Javier Manquillo.

Toon were sloppy on the ball and lacked any fluency.

But in Allan Saint-Maximin they have a player capable of producing a moment of magic from anywhere, and his dinked ball to Wilson almost had them in — only for Charlie Taylor to recover with a heroic block.

Wilson was not to be outdone, though.

Willock's floaty cross from the left should have been meat and drink for keeper Pope.

But after plucking the ball out of the sky, the England stopper dropped it as he fell into Fabian Schar.

Wilson gathered it and took a couple of touches to his right before firing over the covering Chris Wood into the roof of the net.

Burnley really should have been level at the break, though, only for sub Matej Vydra — on for the injured Cornet — to snatch at it and lash well over the bar having been played in by Matt Lowton.

The Magpies had a decent chance to double their lead minutes after the break thanks to Wilson's through-ball to Miguel Almiron, but the Paraguayan's low effort whistled just wide.

As the second half went on, St

James' grew louder and louder as that first win grew closer and closer.

Far from clinging on at first, the Toon had Burnley under the cosh.

Almiron arrowed one straight for the top corner and it looked like it was going to send the Gallowgate into delirium, only for sub Connor Roberts to head it over at the last second.

Moments later and Jonjo Shelvey let fly from 20 yards, with Pope doing well to tip it over.

Burnley were always going to have a chance to ruin the party brewing, though, and it arrived with six minutes to go.

They worked the ball to Ashley Westwood on the left, who played it in low across the six-yard box.

Sub Jay Rodriguez got in ahead of Jamaal Lascelles and poked it home, leading to a moment of deathly silence.

But as the Burnley subs poured on to the pitch in celebration, the linesman's flag went up — with replays showing the Clarets striker half a yard offside.

Then it really was nerve-shredding stuff for the Geordie faithful.

Balls were being lumped in from here, there and everywhere, with Newcastle holding on for dear life.

And hold on they did, for what could be the result that sparks them into life and up the table.

HOW THEY LINED UP

NEWCASTLE: Dubravka, Manquillo, Lascelles, Schar, Lewis, Shelvey, Willock, Almiron (Fernandez 85), Joelinton, Saint-Maximin (Murphy 90), Wilson. Booked: Manquillo.

BURNLEY: Pope, Lowton (Roberts 75), Collins, Tarkowski, Taylor, Gudmundsson (Rodriguez 51), Westwood, Brownhill, McNeil, Wood, Cornet (Vydra 32). Booked: Collins.



HOWE... galvanised

TYNE

From Page 1

have quickly built with the supporters is a special one.

"It's an amazing feeling to get that first win and we can't thank them enough for everything they have given us these last few weeks.

"That reaction at the end can only galvanise us going forward."

Toon's next four games are against Leicester, Liverpool and the Manchester giants.

But while Howe knows how tricky they will be, he is not going to be losing any sleep over them.

He added: "The fixture list doesn't look kind but we can only pick them off one at a time.

"I try not to look at groups of fixtures, it's a waste of energy and time, and a dangerous thing to do. Hopefully this gives us some positive momentum.

"The talk going forward has to be about creating some lasting momentum and continuing to look upwards."

Burnley bossed the first half and piled on the pressure at the end. But they rarely looked like bagging an equaliser, though Jay Rodriguez did have one ruled out for offside.

The bottom three of Burnley — with a game in hand — Newcastle and Norwich are all on ten points.

And Clarets boss Sean Dyche said: "I've been down this road before but there is no lack of belief.

"We had 12 points after 19 games last season and ended with 39. We understand the challenge and I believe in these players.

"We are just short of a bit in the final third — but we are not a million miles away.

"We were better than them in the first half and looked more of a threat.

"But the goal calmed them and gave the supporters something to cling on to."



CALLUM WILSON'S winner was correctly allowed to stand by referee Paul Tierney.

A foul must be awarded if a goalkeeper is challenged when he is in control of the ball.

And had Fabian Schar jumped into Nick Pope then Tierney would have ruled out Newcastle's winner.

But there was no foul committed because Pope has fallen on to Schar — rather than the Toon defender challenging him.

The Burnley keeper could have punched the ball and avoided it falling to Wilson.



Sun
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MATCH STATS	
Newcastle	Burnley
19	10
4	1
48%	52%
319	353
29	13
11	9
10	3
1	1

PREMIER LEAGUE

Man City	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	15	11	2	2	32	9	35
Chelsea	15	10	4	1	44	12	34
West Ham	15	8	3	4	28	19	27
Arsenal	14	7	2	5	17	20	23
Tottenham	13	7	1	5	13	17	22
Man Utd	14	6	3	5	24	24	21
Wolves	15	6	3	6	12	13	21
Brighton	15	4	8	3	14	16	20
Leicester	14	5	4	5	22	19	19
Crystal Palace	14	3	7	4	19	20	16
Brentford	14	4	4	6	17	19	16
Aston Villa	14	5	1	8	19	23	16
Southampton	15	3	7	5	14	21	16
Everton	14	4	3	7	17	24	15
Leeds	14	3	6	5	13	20	15
Watford	15	4	1	10	20	29	13
Burnley	14	1	7	6	14	21	10
Newcastle	15	1	7	7	13	30	10
Norwich	14	2	4	8	8	28	10

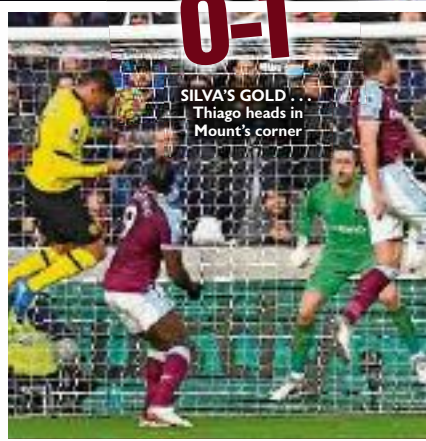
goals PREMIER LEAGUE

4

WEST HAM have won four of their last seven home Premier League matches against Chelsea (D1 L2) — after having won just one of their previous nine on home soil against the Blues (D1 L7).

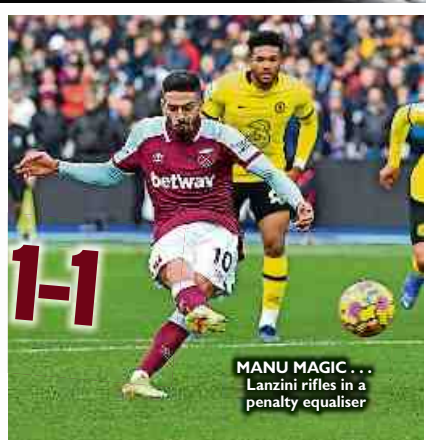
0-1

SILVA'S GOLD...
Thiago heads in
Mount's corner



FREAKY

Pressure is getting Tu



1-1

MANU MAGIC...
Lanzini rifles in a
penalty equaliser

MATCH STATS		
West Ham	(V)	Chelsea
11	Shots	19
5	Shots on target	7
36%	Possession	64%
328	Passes	570
20	Touches in opposition box	45
10	Fouls conceded	10
1	Corners	9
1	Yellow cards	3



Sun DREAM TEAM
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Dream Team
ratings scan
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MASUAKU'S FREAK WINNER
ARTHUR MASUAKU'S mis-hit cross ended up deceiving Chelsea keeper Edouard Mendy for West Ham's winner. It was Masuaku's first Prem goal in his 96th game for the Hammers.

Goal time **86m 29s**
Distance scored **26.7yds**
Speed of shot **51.5mph**

ANTONIO
MASUAKU
LOFTUS-CHEEK



1-2

ACE MASE...
Mount superbly
volleys home



2-2

BOW ARROW...
ace Bowen fires a
fine low equaliser

By **DAVE KIDD**, Chief Sports Writer

IT WAS a freakish winning goal to settle a strange London derby.

Yet Chelsea are truly on the slide — they have dropped points in three of their last five Premier League matches and were extremely poor in victory at Watford in midweek.

Thomas Tuchel's men twice blew the lead before Arthur Masuaku's botched cross in the 87th minute was helped into the net by a wobbly Edouard Mendy to secure West Ham an unlikely victory.

Anyone can lose to David Moyes' side these days — they are in a Champions League spot, having already defeated Tottenham and Liverpool at the London Stadium.

But on their manager's own admission, West Ham were not

West Ham.....3

Lanzini 40 (pen); Bowen 56; Masuaku 87

Chelsea.....2

Silva 28; Mount 44

even particularly good and what is normally a feisty crosstown rivalry suffered from lunchtime kick-off syndrome and was played out in a largely flat atmosphere.

Too many Chelsea players are not at it right now.

Mendy — hailed by some as the best keeper in the world — conceded a penalty from which Manuel Lanzini netted the first equaliser, before he was embarrassed by Masuaku.

And Jorginho, whose blunder gifted Manchester United an opener in last weekend's draw at Stamford Bridge, had played a dozy backpass to put Mendy in trouble. The Chelsea skipper

got on the podium in the Ballon D'Or but is way below those levels at present, struggling for form and, according to Tuchel, full fitness too.

Romelu Lukaku is still feeling his way back after injury, while the energy and quality of the injured N'Golo Kante has been sorely missed in Chelsea's last three games.

Mason Mount had supplied the corner for Thiago Silva's opener and then netted a gorgeous cushioned volley to hand Chelsea a half-time lead.

But after Jarrod Bowen levelled it up early in the second period, West Ham rediscovered their usual appetite for hard graft after an insipid first-half showing.

Tuchel's side have a tough fixture list over the next two months and there is likely to be little breathing space in a tight three-horse title race with Manchester City and Liverpool.

So while this defeat was

undeserved and the winning goal — just Masuaku's second in five years as a West Ham player — was bizarre, Tuchel has genuine cause for concern.

Chelsea, in their Borussia Dortmund clobber, had started brightly, far better than that shoddy display at Vicarage Road on Wednesday.

West Ham, who had taken just one point from three matches since defeating Liverpool, were strangely flat with and without the ball, although Tomas Soucek glanced a header wide from a Michail Antonio cross.

But on 28 minutes, Chelsea were in front.

Mount swung in a corner from the right and Thiago rose above a leaden-footed Antonio and Issa Diop to head home.

It was passive defending, which summed up West Ham's start, but it did seem to rouse Moyes' team.

Thiago was soon called into

in association with



48

THIS was Chelsea's first Prem defeat after leading at half-time since December 2018 against Wolves under Maurizio Sarri — they were unbeaten in 48 league games when ahead at HT before yesterday (W40 D8).

3

IN their 53rd match under Thomas Tuchel in all competitions, Chelsea shipped more than one goal for only the third time, also doing so against West Brom in April (5-2) and Aston Villa in May (2-1).

BUM TIME

out-of-sorts Blues



MOYES... luck's in

Moyes: Winner was real Art work

By DAVE KIDD

DAVID MOYES thanked his lucky stars as Arthur Masuaku's fluke winner handed West Ham an unlikely derby day victory over Chelsea.

The Congolese wing-back, on as a first half sub for the injured Ben Johnson, miscued a cross in the 87th minute.

But it ended up beating Edouard Mendy at his near post for only his second goal in five years.

It was very lucky and Masuaku later tweeted: "So, was it a cross or was it shot ??? (hint: I was as surprised as you)"

Boss Moyes said: "I just said to Arthur, I thought it was a great cross!"

"We lost a goal in the last couple of minutes (against Brighton) the other night.

"This one was a very fortunate goal so let's not kid ourselves, but in football you need fortune.

"I want the team to play much better but the good thing is we can beat Chelsea without playing well, so that helps us.

"In truth, we did not play that well but we got the goals.

"In other games I would not say we played worse or better but we did not quite get the goals.

"Today we got the goal against a team who don't concede many. It's great credit to the lads.

"We were too passive in the first half. They have quality, that is why they are European champions.

"Whether you press them or lay off them they can deal with both."

Chelsea led twice through Thiago Silva and Mason Mount, but the Hammers levelled through a Manuel Lanzini penalty and Jarrod Bowen's strike.

West Ham remain in the Champions League places, having now defeated Tottenham, Liverpool and Chelsea at the London Stadium this season.

They visit Burnley and Arsenal as well as entertaining Norwich before Christmas and Moyes is aiming high.

The Hammers boss, also into the last 16 of the Europa League, said: "I want to compete with those who are in the top four. We are giving them a game.

"For us, we want to try and be consistent and hang in there, to stay on the tails of the teams above us and see what we can do."



ED IN HANDS... Mendy is caught out as Masuaku's cross (inset) squeezes in near post

3-2

Reece's spot of bother



REECE JAMES tried to put Manuel Lanzini off — by screaming as the West Ham man ran up to slot his penalty.

But Lanzini reacted by barging into the England man and giving him a verbal volley after making it 1-1.

Former top referee Mark Halsey said: "James could have been cautioned for unsporting behaviour."

"Referee Andre Marriner has used common sense and managed the situation very well."

"He had an excellent game. Had it been a more niggly game, then James may well have seen a yellow card."



action at the opposite end, the Brazilian hacking off the line after Vladimir Coufal lashed in a shot which beat Mendy.

And five minutes before the break, the Hammers were level thanks to that second shocker in as many weekends from Jorginho.

His under-cooked backpass let in Bowen, who went down in a wrestling match with Mendy, Lanzini thumping the penalty into the corner.

However poor the backpass, Mendy looked favourite to smother the danger.

Tuchel admits the Senegalese keeper's confidence has taken a dent after he looked imperious for so long.

The sense of relief did not last long for the hosts and they were caught legs-akimbo as Chelsea regained the lead.

Ruben Loftus-Cheek swept out a pass to Hakim Ziyech and the winger's excellent cross picked out an unmarked

Mount, who beat Lukas Fabianski at his near post with a superb cushioned volley.

Left-back Ben Johnson, who allowed Mount to escape, immediately limped off injured, but despite that element of misfortune for West Ham, Chelsea thoroughly deserved their half-time lead.

Chelsea were also forced into a break at half-time, although they could call on £97.5million Romelu Lukaku to replace the injured Kai Havertz.

Yet West Ham were level again within ten minutes, Chelsea defending hesitantly and Coufal doing well to prod it to Bowen, who rammed home a shot which nutmegged Andreas Christensen on its way past Mendy.

Kurt Zouma pulled up with a hamstring injury, cutting short his reunion with his former club and Moyes sent on Pablo Fornals in a positive move. Antonio won a shoulder-

barge with Callum Hudson-Odoi and flashed a centre across goal, Bowen not quite able to apply the final touch.

Then came Masuaku's crazy winner as he shaped up to cross but then beat Mendy from distance.

For a while everyone inside the London Stadium was asking whether he meant it but replays made it clear he had not and the winger later confirmed that in a social media post.

It was an illogical ending to an illogical sort of game — but Tuchel needs to make sense of it all pretty swiftly if Chelsea are to be champions.

HOW THEY LINED UP

WEST HAM: Fabianski, Coufal, Johnson (Masuaku 45), Dawson, Zouma (Fornals 71), Diop, Rice, Soucek, Lanzini (Benrahma 85), Bowen, Antonio. Booked: Coufal.

CHelsea: Mendy, James, Alonso (Pulisic 72), Christensen, Silva, Rudiger, Loftus-Cheek, Jorginho, Mount, Ziyech (Hudson-Odoi 64), Havertz (Lukaku 45). Booked: James, Jorginho, Christensen.

goals PREMIER LEAGUE



GUARDIOLA... focus

Guard's up over a brutal winter

By CHARLIE WYETT

PEP GUARDIOLA warned his stars to prepare for the nastiest spell of the season.

Manchester City moved top of the table, with Raheem Sterling heading the opener and Bernardo Silva grabbing a double before Cucho Hernandez scored a late consolation.

And after a Champions League dead rubber against RB Leipzig, City have six Premier League games inside 22 days.

Although boosted by Chelsea's 3-2 loss to West Ham, Guardiola said: "One team dropped points — next week it can be us or Liverpool. Many things can happen."

"Now comes the toughest part of the season with many games and we are trying to continue at this level and rhythm."

"We are playing at a good level and we are winning games — but in football everything can go down in one second."

In-form ace Bernardo scored another stunning strike for 3-0.

He said: "It is always better to be top of the league not second, third or fourth — but it is still the beginning."

"Liverpool are just one point behind us, Chelsea are two and there are lots of games to play."

Watford boss Claudio Ranieri added: "If I was told some time ago, 'Claudio, against City, Manchester United and Chelsea you will get three points', then I would sign for that immediately."

"I saw a good spirit — at 3-0 down we never gave up. Our Premier League really starts now."

HOW TOP OF TABLE CHANGED THREE TIMES YESTERDAY

West Ham 3 CHELSEA 2	2.30pm	Pld	Pts
1 CHELSEA	15	33	
2 Man City	14	32	
3 Liverpool	14	31	

Wolves 0 LIVERPOOL 1	5pm	Pld	Pts
1 LIVERPOOL	15	34	
2 Chelsea	15	33	
3 Man City	14	32	

Watford 1 MAN CITY 3	7.30pm	Pld	Pts
1 MAN CITY	15	35	
2 Liverpool	15	34	
3 Chelsea	15	33	

62

MAN CITY are unbeaten in their last 19 meetings with Watford in all competitions (W17 D2), netting 62 goals in this run — an average of 3.26 goals per game.

MATCH STATS		
Watford		Man City
11	Shots	26
4	Shots on target	13
23%	Possession	77%
235	Passes	816
15	Touches in opposition box	71
10	Fouls conceded	7
5	Corners	11
3	Yellow cards	0



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CITY



Pep's men top after 14th win

By CHARLIE WYETT

AND for the least surprising result of the weekend, indeed the season — Manchester City beat Watford.

The only shock was City, who love visiting Hertfordshire, failed to humiliate their hosts as they hit the Premier League summit. Although the champions certainly had the chances to do so.

An early goal from Raheem Sterling followed by a couple from Bernardo Silva, before a late consolation from sub Cucho Hernandez, might give the impression of a contest.

But not for the first time, Pep Guardiola's brilliant team were on a different level despite wasting so many chances. City had 77 per cent

Watford.....1

Hernandez 74

Manchester City...3

Sterling 4; Bernardo 31, 63

possession and managed 26 shots with 13 of those on target.

So it is fair to say Watford got away with one, as a more accurate scoreline would have been 8-1.

The Hornets have now lost 14 games in a row to City. Their previous three in all competitions were 4-0, 8-0 and 6-0, so this was an improvement.

Their last win against City — 20 matches ago — was in March 1989.

As a result, the fans at Vicarage Road could be forgiven for absolutely dreading this fixture and, if they do stay up this season, the club should

take away the cost of this one game for their season tickets.

But on the day Chelsea lost to West Ham and Liverpool scraped past Wolves, City toyed with Claudio Ranieri's team and, right now, are the best side in English football.

Jack Grealish — making his first City start since November 3 after picking up an injury on international duty with England — was replaced by Riyad Mahrez in the 68th minute.

He will have walked off wondering how on earth he did not score five.

Grealish played as a false nine but, at times, City played a front five as Ilkay Gundogan also pushed up front with Phil Foden, Sterling and Bernardo all tearing forward.

Unsurprisingly, it took just four minutes to effectively confirm the final result.

City came close to taking the lead

at the start when Aymeric Laporte's header was cleared off the line by Joao Pedro yet Guardiola did not have to wait much longer.

Foden, whose deep corner created the first chance, crossed for Sterling to head the ball on to the ground and into the net.

Watford's defending — with Sterling unmarked just four yards from goal — was a joke for a team at this level.

Danny Rose, guilty of ball watching, failed to track Sterling yet looked around at his team-mates once the England forward had scored.

At half-time, City led by two but it should have been 6-0 and Grealish could have had four.

He was left unmarked at a Foden corner but sent his header into the arms of keeper Daniel Bachmann.

Grealish then had three other decent chances including one effort

in association with



0 WATFORD have failed to keep a clean sheet in any of their last 25 Prem games, the longest run of any side in the competition since Burnley's 29-game run between Nov 2009 and Aug 2014.



6 BERNARDO SILVA has scored six goals in his last eight Prem games for Man City — one more than in his previous 61 games in the competition (5). He has scored more PL goals against Watford (5) than he has versus any other club.



STER SHAKES 'EM ...
Raheem Sterling puts City ahead after four minutes



SILVA LINING ... Bernardo Silva outwits Watford's defence to score City's second goal

HERTS!

in a row v Watford



which he smashed into the away end. Bernardo, however, is flying. The Portuguese has been labelled by Guardiola as the best player in the division and, while that is up for debate — as Mo Salah would have something to say about it — he is still a joy to watch. Bernardo beat Bachmann at his near post on 31 minutes although did well to score from such a tight spot. Referee Simon Hooper, normally whistle happy, deserves credit for letting play continue after Grealish had been clobbered by Rose. Home keeper Bachmann kept the score down in the second half, making yet another save to deny Sterling while he pushed a shot from Foden on to the post. In a counter-attack, which somehow saw three City players to two home defenders, Gundogan floated an effort

over the bar. Bernardo (*right*) made it 3-0 on 63 minutes with another special moment that only a small number of players are capable of. He side-stepped Rose before curling a shot into the top corner but, once again, the decision-making from Watford's players to allow Grealish to stroll into their area unchallenged was not up to scratch. Grealish then had a strike deflected on to the bar and, knowing his player was not going to score, Guardiola immediately replaced him for Mahrez. Half-time Watford sub Hernandez gave the Vicarage Road fans faint hope with a decent finish after his initial shot hit the post. Hernandez then delivered a decent cross for Josh King who should have done better and, had he scored, City will have been sweating at the end. Guardiola was angry as ref Hooper

gave only a yellow card for Craig Cathcart's nasty-looking challenge on Gabriel Jesus. Ranieri could not complain about anything though. He has now been in charge for eight matches. Watford have won two — big wins against Everton and Manchester United — but lost six. The next couple of matches, against Brentford and Burnley, are massive. Failure to win those and they will be in massive danger of bouncing back to the Championship. And they will certainly not be expecting anything out of their trip to the Etihad on April 23. **HOW THEY LINED UP** WATFORD: Bachmann, Femenia, Troost-Ekong, Cathcart, Rose (Ngakia 71), Louza, Dennis, Cleverley (Kucka 46), Sissoko, Pedro, King. Booked: King, Rose, Cathcart. MAN CITY: Ederson, Walker, Dias, Laporte, Cancelo, Silva, Rodri, Gundogan (De Bruyne 67), Sterling, Grealish (Mahrez 68), Foden (Jesus 75).



BEES KNEES ... Bielsa is an admirer of new boys Brentford

Bielsa bigs up the Bees

By JASON MELLOR

MARCELO BIELSA hailed Brentford for following Leeds in blazing a trail for Premier League new boys.

The Elland Road boss reckons the Bees have taken the top flight by storm thanks to an ultra-positive approach.

The clubs meet at Elland Road today with Thomas Frank's men looking to build on a fine debut campaign.

A haul of four wins and four draws from 14 games sees them comfortable in mid-table as they look to emulate Leeds' great return to the top table 12 months ago.

After a slow start, Bielsa's side are climbing away from danger as they look to build on last season's ninth-place finish in their first Prem campaign for 17 years.

Bielsa has been impressed by Brentford's in-your-face tactics after their play-off promotion in May.

He said: "They've come up with an intent to take the initiative in matches — which is really creditable. They like to attack and manage the ball all

over the pitch. To go forward like they do with six players is an impressive approach.

"Like us, they've come up from the Championship which is a very passionate and difficult competition.

"Of course, the Premier League is superior in terms of the teams you face each week. It puts a lot of mental demands on you because to maintain such a high level of concentration against opponents for nine or ten months, it's difficult."

After the 1-0 midweek win over Crystal Palace, Leeds are looking for back-to-back wins for the first time since ending last season with four straight victories.

Leeds' highly-rated keeper Illan Meslier has posted clean sheets in the last two matches.

Bielsa added: "He's a keeper with a lot of personality and he transmits security with each decisive intervention — which have the same weight as a goal in our favour."

LEEDS (likely): Meslier, Dallas, Llorente, Cooper, Struijk, Phillips, Raphinha, Forshaw, Klich, James, Bamford.



Tom not one for the ages

By IAN WINROW

THOMAS FRANK has no intention of following in the footsteps of Marcelo Bielsa and managing into his late sixties.

The Brentford boss, 48, is a huge admirer of Bielsa, 66, and other managers who keep working long after they could collect their bus pass.

Frank, whose side face Bielsa's Leeds today, said: "I love it and we need people like them who want to carry on."

"They are role models. Sir Alex Ferguson, Marcelo Bielsa, Arsene Wenger and Roy Hodgson, who I was privileged to meet.

"When we played Crystal Palace's reserves I sat and talked to him.

"I asked him, 'Do you still get irritated or can you keep your head? Are you

more relaxed now?'. And he said, 'No, still the same'.

"And I was just a little bit deflated, like, 'Oh, so this needs to carry on with this passion?'"

Frank has no plans to match their longevity.

He added: "If you ask me now I will say, 'no'.

"I love the job I have and I'd like to carry on as long as possible. But maybe in 18 years, though, and you say, 'Thomas...'"

Frank knows Brentford face a tough test against Bielsa's all-action side.

He said: "I'd call their approach controlled chaos. They know exactly what they are doing and they control it very well."

BRENTFORD (likely): Fernandez, Goode, Jansson, Pinnock, Canos, Onyeka, Norgaard, Janell, Henry, Toney, Mbeumo.

goals PREMIER LEAGUE

2

TOTTENHAM have won both of their first two Prem home games under Antonio Conte — only Ryan Mason and Harry Redknapp won their opening three at home for the club in the competition.

HOW SPURS HAVE DIPPED IN LAST TWO SEASONS

	2017-18/2018-19	2019-20/2020-21
Goals per game	1.86	1.69
Conceded per game	0.99	1.59
Prem pts per game	1.95	1.59
Win rate	61%	45%

DIER FOR 2 YEARS

Eric's frank verdict

By **DUNCAN WRIGHT**

ERIC DIER admits he and his Tottenham team-mates have not played at the level they are capable of for two years.

Spurs host Norwich today back in the mix for a Champions League spot after two straight wins.

But the last 24 months have been anything but impressive from the North Londoners with the team massively under achieving — and sacking **THREE** managers.

Antonio Conte is the man in control now and he has openly admitted there are problems in the squad that only time will sort out.

And centre-half Dier says the players know they been below par ever since they reached the Champions League final in 2019.

The 27-year-old said: "We've had a couple of years that have definitely been below the standards that were set previously in my time here, which has been really disappointing and something that you try to fight against."

"So it's about trying to get back to that place and I definitely get the sense that under this manager."

"It takes time and it's not something that happens overnight but we really need to build ourselves back up to those standards and those kind of performances and results and to be more competitive in every competition."

"So I'm really excited about where we're going. Now it's not so much about doing so much of this, talking, it's about performing."

Conte has wasted little time stamping his authority on the squad in the month since he replaced Nuno Espirito Santo.

Dier says the Italian has already left a lasting impression on the players with his attention to detail and the demanding fitness drills he



has had them going through. Dier said: "You try not to have too many preconceptions, you want to go into it with an open mind and just see for yourself."

"But it has been a great four or five weeks that we have been working together. He has incredible passion for football and intensity in his work every day in training."

"Every game, no matter the opposition or the competition, every day his intensity is unparalleled, so it's something that is really enjoyable to be around and work from and develop."

"That's obviously my objective and the objective of the team."

"It's no secret that his training sessions can be quite tough and there's a lot of focus on fitness."

"It's an area that we need to recognise that everyone within the team needs to improve."

"That's something the manager has definitely highlighted, it's something we're working on and there are hard sessions."

"But at the same time it's enjoyable to be working this way and to be pushing yourself is very rewarding and puts you in a more confident position going into games with that work in your bag."

"To get the chance to work under a manager of his calibre and history is a great experience for any player and a great opportunity to learn and improve."

"I just look at it as being in a very lucky position to work under another fantastic manager and try to improve."

TOTTENHAM (likely): Lloris, Tanganga, Dier, Davies, Emerson, Hojbjerg, Winks, Reguilon, Lucas, Son, Kane.

SMITH'S SHUNBy **JON WEST**

NORWICH fans are annoyed Dean Smith missed out on the chance to be named Manager of the Month.

The Canaries were unbeaten through November. But Premier League chiefs were not prepared to give an award to a boss who had been sacked that month.

Steven Gerrard — the man who replaced Smith at Aston Villa — did get the nod as

a candidate, along with Pep Guardiola and Jurgen Klopp.

Smith (right), whose side visit Tottenham today, said: "It just shows you how football is. I've been involved long enough to know there are crazy moments."

NORWICH (likely): Krul, Aarons, Hanley, Gibson, Williams, Lees-Melou, Sargent, Gilmour, Rupp, McLean, Pukli.

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15

SOUTHAMPTON have dropped 71 points from winning points in the Prem since Ralph Hasenhuttl's first game in charge in Dec 2018 — 15 more than any other side.

4

HALF of Brighton's away Premier League goals this season (4 out of 8) have been scored in the 89th minute or later — with three coming in the 90th minute.

in association with



ERIC 'N EARN . . . defender Dier is looking for a big improvement under Antonio Conte



A LATE PAYER

Neal on the money

By GRAHAM NICKLESS

NEAL MAUPAY came to Brighton's rescue again with his **THIRD** away-day last-gasp goal of the season.

His equaliser in the eighth minute of stoppage time put the Seagulls back on track for a top-half finish to the season.

And it put a smile on the faces of fans who had just been warned they faced a nightmare journey home due to rail problems.

Brighton were trailing to Armando Broja's first-half strike when sub Jakub Moder's free-kick came back off Southampton's wall. Moder's follow-up effort was volleyed home by Maupay.

The French forward snaffled a point in the 89th minute at West Ham last Wednesday.

And back in late September, he levelled against Crystal Palace deep into injury time.

Brighton chief Graham Potter said: "Three times he's done that this season. He just doesn't give up."

"He has great mentality in that he keeps working and believes in himself and fights for the team."

"The harder you work the luckier you get — and it keeps happening because you don't give in."

But angry Saints boss Ralph Hasenhuttl slammed keeper Alex McCarthy for not telling him he was injured before conceding.

He groaned: "Alex must be more professional than that. If you have a goalkeeper who is not 100 per cent fit in that moment, there must be a message — 'I cannot jump' — and we can make a change."

"He didn't say anything and this for me is not acceptable."

Saints' Chelsea loanee Broja looked to have condemned Albion to a club record-equalling ten top-flight games without victory.

Broja had the Seagulls flapping twice in the opening six minutes.

He burst clear only to see keeper Robert Sanchez save with his outstretched leg, then turned his marker but was denied again.

He was enjoying leading the line at home, where Saints have lost just once this season.

And St Mary's roared on 29 minutes when the Albanian Under-21 international coolly put them ahead.

Saints defender Lyano nodded forward for Nathan Redmond to flick a header to Broja. The striker

Southampton.....1

Brighton.....1

Maupay 90

left Shane Duffy on the deck with some clever footwork before stroking the ball past Sanchez.

Broja then really should have put the game to bed but with only Sanchez to beat, he dragged wide.

Albion hardly challenged a home defence that had conceded eight goals in their previous three games.

Just before the hour, Maupay did not help the cause when he hit wide.

Then he spurned another glorious chance when his low shot was cleared by McCarthy.

Brighton's Leandro Trossard was carried off late on with what looked like an arm injury.

But Maupay lifted the mood within the ten minutes of stoppage time.

HOW THEY LINED UP

SOUTHAMPTON: McCarthy, Livramento, Lyano, Salisu, Walker-Peters, Redmond, Ward-Prowse, Romeu, Tella (Elyounoussi 84), Adams, Broja (Armstrong 81). Booked: Salisu, Romeu, Tella, Elyounoussi.

BRIGHTON: Sanchez, Veltman (Moder 78), Duffy, Burn, Lamptey (March 63), Gross (Connolly 55), Bissouma, Mwepu, Cucurella, Trossard, Maupay. Booked: Duffy, Bissouma.



SUCKER PUNCH . . . Maupay salutes his last-gasp goal

MATCH STATS		
Southampton	V	Brighton
14	Shots	14
4	Shots on target	4
44%	Possession	56%
310	Passes	404
35	Touches in opposition box	14
15	Fouls conceded	12
6	Corners	2
4	Yellow cards	2



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goals PREMIER LEAGUE

39

DIVOCK ORIGI'S strike was Liverpool's 39th winning goal scored in 90-plus minutes in the Premier League — at least 13 more than other side.



MAN ALIVE . . . Lanzini (right) hails his spot-kick in win over Chelsea

NEWCASTLE (1) 1 BURNLEY (0) 0
Wilson 40 Att 51,948

Newcastle: Dubravka, Manquillo, Schar, Lascelles, Lewis, Almiron (Fernandez 85), Shelvey, Wilcock, Saint-Maximin (Murphy 90), Wilson, Joelinton. Subs not used: Ritchie, Hayden, Hendrick, Kralth, Darlow, Gayle, Longstaff. Booked: Manquillo.

Burnley: Pope, Lowton (Roberts 75), Collins, Tarkowski, Taylor, Gudmundsson (Rodriguez 81), Westwood, Brownhill, McNeil, Wood, Cornet (Vydra 32). Subs not used: Cork, Hennessey, Lennon, Pieters, Long, Thomas. Booked: Collins.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 1 BRIGHTON (0) 1
Broja 29 Maupay 90 Att 28,706

Southampton: McCarthy, Livramento, Lyanco, Salisu, Walker-Peters, Redmond, Ward-Prowse, Romeu, Tella (Elyounoussi 84), Adams, Broja (Armstrong 81). Subs not used: Stephens, Long, Perraud, Smallbone, Diello, Walcott, Lewis. Booked: Elyounoussi, Romeu, Salisu, Tella.

Brighton: Sanchez, Veltman (Moder 78), Duffy, Burn, Lamptey (March 63), Mwepu, Bissouma, Gross (Connolly 55), Cucurella, Trossard, Maupay. Subs not used: Mac Allister, Scherpen, Steele, Locadia, Roberts, Richards. Booked: Bissouma, Duffy.

WATFORD (0) 1 MAN. CITY (2) 3
Hernandez 74 Sterling 4 Att 20,673 Bernardo 31, 63

Watford: Bachmann, Femenia, Troost-Ekong, Githart, Rose (Ngakia 71), Louza (Hernandez 48), Dennis, Cleverley (Kucka 46), Sissoko, Joao Pedro, King. Subs not used: Gosling, Fletcher, Tufan, Kabasele, Elliot, Morris. Booked: Cathcart, King, Rose.

Man City: Ederson, Walker, Dias, Laporte, Joao Cancelo, Gundogan (De Bruyne 67), Rodri, Bernardo Silva, Sterling, Grealish (Mahrez 68), Foden (Gabriel Jesus 75). Subs not used: Stones, Ake, Zinchenko, Steffen, Fernandinho, Carson.

WEST HAM (1) 3 CHELSEA (2) 2
Lanzini 40 (pen) Thiago Silva 29 Att 28,706 Mount 44 Masuaku 87

West Ham: Fabianski, Dawson, Souma (Fomals 71), Dlop, Coufal, Soucek, Rice, Johnson (Masuaku 45), Bowen, Lanzini (Benrahma 85), Antonio. Subs not used: Yamolenko, Vlasic, Areola, Noble, Kral, Ashby. Booked: Coufal.

Chelsea: Mendy, Christensen, Thiago Silva, Rudiger, James, Loftus-Cheek, Jorginho, Alonso (Pulisic 72), Ziyech (Hudson-Odoi 64), Mount, Havertz (Lukaku 46). Subs not used: Arribabalaga, Werner, Saul, Barkley, Azpilicueta, Sarr. Booked: Christensen, James, Jorginho.



WELL DONE, BRO . . . Broja gives Saints lead against Brighton

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man City	15	11	2	2	32	9	35
Liverpool	15	10	4	1	44	12	34
Chelsea	15	10	3	2	35	9	33
West Ham	15	8	3	4	28	19	27
Arsenal	14	7	2	5	17	20	23
Tottenham	13	7	1	5	13	17	22
Man Utd	14	6	3	5	24	24	21
Wolves	15	6	3	6	12	13	21
Brighton	15	4	8	3	14	16	20
Leicester	14	5	4	5	22	25	19
Crystal Palace	14	3	7	4	19	20	16
Brentford	14	4	4	6	17	19	16
Aston Villa	14	5	1	8	19	23	16
Southampton	15	3	7	5	14	21	16
Everton	14	4	3	7	17	24	15
Leeds	14	3	6	5	13	20	15
Watford	15	4	1	10	20	29	13
Burnley	14	1	7	6	14	21	10
Newcastle	15	1	7	7	17	30	10
Norwich	14	2	4	8	8	28	10

LEADING SCORERS

Salah	(Liverpool)	13
Vardy	(Leicester)	9
Jota	(Liverpool)	8
Mane	(Liverpool)	7
Bernardo	(Man City)	7
Dennis	(Watford)	6
Antonio	(West Ham)	6
Maupay	(Brighton)	6
Ronaldo	(Man Utd)	6
Wilson	(Newcastle)	6

LEADING ASSISTS

Salah	(Liverpool)	8
Pogba	(Man Utd)	7
Alexander-Arnold	(Liverpool)	7
Gabriel Jesus	(Man City)	6
Kovacic	(Chelsea)	5
Mount	(Chelsea)	4

WOLVES (0) 0 LIVERPOOL (0) 1
Origi 90

Wolverhampton: Jose Sa, Kilman, Coady, Saiss, Nelson Semedo, Neves, Dendoncker, Alt Nouri (Hoever 90), Traore (Trincão 88), Jimenez, Hwang (Joao Moutinho 79). Subs not used: Daniel Podence, Silva, Ruddy, Cundle, Bueno, Campbell. Booked: Dendoncker, Jimenez.

Liverpool: Alisson, Alexander-Arnold, Matip, van Dijk, Robertson, Henderson (Origi 68), Fabinho, Thiago, Salah (Milner 90), Jota (Oxlade-Chamberlain 82), Mane. Subs not used: Konate, Minamino, Tsimikas, Phillips, Kelleher, Williams. Booked: Fabinho, Robertson.

Wolves feel Ori-ble

SUPERSUB DIVOCK STUNS LAGE'S MEN

By GRAHAM HILL

SUPERSUB Divock Origi scored a dramatic stoppage-time winner that broke Wolves' hearts.

It had been a day of pure frustration for Jurgen Klopp's Reds against a very determined defence.

But just when it looked as though Liverpool would face a rare shut-out, Origi stepped up to the plate.

Before that, a wonder stop from Wolves skipper Conor Coady seemed to have halted Liverpool's charge towards a brief few hours at the top of the Premier League.

Coady may not be a goalkeeper — but this was certainly a candidate for save of the season.

Diogo Jota looked certain to put Liverpool ahead on the hour against his former club and on his 25th birthday.

But Coady was in no mood to hand out any gifts.

A mix-up between Romain Saiss and keeper Jose Sa gave Jota a clear run through on goal.

But, somehow, Liverpool fan Coady stood firm on the line and blocked his former team-mate's shot.

Then Sa made up for his moment of madness with four minutes left as he saved superbly from Mo Salah's close-range effort.

Liverpool looked as though they would fail to score in a game for the first time since April — and that was against Real Madrid.

Klopp's side also seemed set to miss out on the chance to take advantage of Chelsea's defeat at West Ham.

But the Reds salvaged all three points thanks to Belgian striker Origi, who came on for Kop skipper Jordan Henderson after 68 minutes. A superb

Wolves.....0

Liverpool.....1

Origi 90

pass from Virgil van Dijk found Salah and he set up Origi, who turned in the box and fired home a winner which could yet prove huge in the title race. It left Wolves crestfallen after a game where they appeared to have done enough to earn a point.

They went into the game with some trepidation after two scoreless games in

succession — and a real question mark over their ability to find the net.

And facing up to a Liverpool side which had scored four goals in each of their previous three Premier League games, Wolves did not appear to be in the best of form.

On the flip side, the Molineux men had kept three clean sheets in a row, so something had to give.

Klopp named an unchanged side for the game, with a dead rubber of a Champions League tie against AC Milan coming up in midweek.

But Wolves welcomed back Ruben Neves in midfield, with Joao Moutinho making way after the frustrating midweek draw with Burnley. Jota



HERO . . . Origi winner

KLOPP HAILS

By GRAHAM HILL

JURGEN KLOPP hailed Divock Origi as a 'legend'.

The Belgian forward has not started a single Premier League game this season — and only has 34 starts to his name in seven years.

But on his third substitute appearance of the campaign, he produced the 94th-minute goal that put Klopp's side top of the table for a couple of hours at least.

And he spared ex-Wolves forward Diogo Jota's blushes after England defender Conor Coady made an incredible

block on the line. Liverpool boss Klopp said: "Divock Origi, the legend, finished the game off for us.

"He has scored some of the most important goals in the history of this club.

"He's an incredible finisher, Liverpool should know this.

"But it's difficult to get into this team because of the players we have.

"He doesn't need a lot of time to get into a game.

"Winning was great for

in association with



3 WOLVES had just three shots in yesterday's game at Molineux — their fewest in a Premier League match since March 2019 (two against Chelsea).



9 LIVERPOOL have kept more clean sheets than any other Premier League side this season (9), while only Norwich (8) have netted fewer goals than Wolves (12).



DIVOCK 'N ROLL
... Origi fires home a dramatic late winner

MATCH STATS	
Wolves	Liverpool
3	17
1	5
33%	67%
315	624
8	40
4	7
2	8
2	2

returned to the club he left 15 months ago — and he was booed by sections of the home crowd.

It was cagey stuff in the early stages with Adams Frasers once again showing he is just about the quickest player in the top flight.

The Spain winger is said to be on Liverpool's wish list, with talks over a new Molineux contract ongoing.

Defender Max Kilman stood out in the opening 20 minutes, on his growing reputation as a defender continued.

Wolves fans cheered 'Kilman for England' and you feel they may be right — he should at least be on Three Lions boss Gareth Southgate's radar.

Liverpool began to look like they

could unpick the Wolves defence — but when a ball from Thiago Alcantara found Trent Alexander-Arnold his first-time shot flew over the bar.

Moments later, Alexander-Arnold crossed for Jota at the far post however he headed wide from close range.

But Klopp must really have been wondering how they did not take the lead after 35 minutes.

Jota fed Andy Robertson and he put the ball across the face of the Wolves goal, where Salah was waiting.

But Salah made the crucial touch to stop the Premier League's top scorer netting from close range.

Wolves may have got away with it there, yet the downside for them was

that Coady also went down in the six-yard box while trying to deal with the danger.

Alexander-Arnold was preparing to put the ball back into the box but instead kicked it out so his England team-mate could have treatment.

Coady was able to carry on, although he was clearly in discomfort.

Wolves did not manage a single shot in the first half and only briefly did anything to get the home fans on their feet. Just before the break, Nouri delivered a cross which was collected by Alexios despite pressure from Trent.

Ait-Nouri then managed to create space but badly sliced his shot across the penalty box.

Trent began the second half by pressuring Van Dijk into a mistake but Wolves could not capitalise on it.

The Wolves stragglers had all the presence of a champion boxer, as he bossed his way around the park with his sheer physical strength.

But a struggling Coady then provided the moment of the match — at least for the home fans.

So had a rush of blood to the head as he was out of his area. It left him free for what looked like the opening goal but Coady watched him all the way and somehow managed to block the shot on the line.

Jota was left as stunned as everyone else in the ground and it lifted Wolves briefly. However Origi and the Reds laughed last — and loudest.

HOW THEY LINED UP

WOLVES: Gk. Kilman, Grady, Smith, Semedo, Hayes, Dendoncker, Kilman, Weaver, Moly, Lewis (Fraser), Moly, Jinhua, Hwang, Molineux, Fray, Baines, Gendard, Jinhua.

LIVERPOOL: Gk. Loris, Alexander-Arnold, Kieran, Van Dijk, Robertson, Henderson (Origi), Fabiano, Thiago, Salah (Killer), Jota, (Oxlade-Chamberlain), Kane, Boked: Robertson, Fabiano.

KOP 'LEGEND'

sure — but when Div scores it's even better."

Klopp expected Origi, 26, to leave last summer.

He added: "If I'd been another manager, I'd have gone for him."

"That's true. I can't believe people think if you cannot play for Liverpool, you can't be good."

"But I'm very happy he's still here."

"This result felt really big for us because we missed a lot of chances."

"But we just had to keep

going and we did. We said after the game it was like the good old times from two years ago, when we really needed it."

"But this really wasn't a lucky win."

Wolves boss Bruno Lage admitted his players were devastated after defending so well for so long.

Lage said: "It's a bad taste. It was hard for me to see the players' faces."

"I'm proud of the way we played against one of the best teams in the world."



LOVE ... boss Klopp



COMPILED BY: Russell Lanning



SUDDENLY IT'S THE FIGHTING HAMMERS

DERBY.....2
WEST HAM.....4

PLAYING in his 500th league game, Jimmy Greaves (left) scored the opener for struggling West Ham, who were down in 19th place in the table before the game.

Teenager Clyde Best was the star of the show for the Hammers, scoring two goals.

Manager Ron Greenwood said: "It's very difficult for a lad of 19 like Best to do well in a struggling side. But now he's getting the goals we all know he can score."



HOUL AND THE GANG

LIVERPOOL.....4
SHEFF WED.....1

TEENAGER Steven Gerrard netted his first goal for Liverpool and third in the game for the Reds at Anfield.

Sammi Hyvola, Danny Murphy and David Thompson were also on target after Niclas Alexandersson opened for Sheffield Wednesday.

Assistant Phil Thompson said: "We had a lot of youngsters in the team. It's great that Steven (right), Danny and David are all on the scoresheet."



MAN CITY.....2
FULHAM.....0

FOR the first time in 416 league games in his managerial career, Pep Guardiola did not make any substitutions.

It was also the first time City had not brought on a sub in a Premier League games in 15 years. Raheem Sterling and Kevin De Bruyne scored the goals.

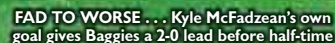
Guardiola (above) said: "I decided to put 90 minutes in their legs and then the guys on the bench I would prefer for a fresh 90 minutes in the Champions League against Marseille in four days' time."



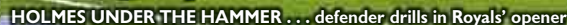
Ismael gets promotion bid Bag on track

Ismael said: "The first thing is, we are back on track. It was very important, after

YOU'VE AD IT ...
Coventry No2 Adi
Viveash gets to grips
with a pitch invader



McCann said: "Earlier this season, that goal before half-time could have finished us off. But the lads have adjusted and showed grit and determination in the second half."



24

NOTTINGHAM FOREST have earned 24 points in 13 games under Steve Cooper, the third-most of any side in the Championship behind Fulham (28) and Bournemouth (25).



CHAMPIONSHIP FASTEST & LATEST GOALS

FASTEST - Murray Wallace (Milwall) 9m 45s

LATEST - Jordan Clark (Luton) 90m 56s

in association with



REVIEW

draws with Blackpool and Forest, to get the momentum going with our performance — and then to add the last step with the win.”

When asked about some Baggies fans being unhappy, Ismael said: “It is important what I say now — we play the game always to win.”

“I am a winner. Over the last three years, I have won more games than I lost.”

“You can be sure that when I don’t win a game, I am really angry and I try everything in the next game.”

“The Championship is a long journey. Every team goes on a bad run, every team can be on

a good run. We just need to say calm, stay focused — we know what we can do.”

Coventry remain in the top six and boss Mark Robins urged for some perspective to be put on his side’s second home loss of the season.

He said: “I think they were better than us in the first half, we looked tired and weren’t switched on, which is the first time really apart from against Luton.”

“Tactically it was wrong and when you give players with pace and quality that time and space, they punish you.”

“Half-time came and we were able to change and get a

bit of structure and be a bit more competitive.

“That quality in the final third was the difference today.

“But the distance we have come, we’ve got to be realistic as well and not be too hard on everybody.”

Grant fired the Baggies in front after 20 minutes.

Callum Robinson’s through ball picked out his run into the box — and he slipped the ball past Simon Moore for his first goal in five games.

They doubled their lead two minutes before the break.

Darnell Furlong’s low cross hit the hand of Albion defender Cedric Kipre, before

deflecting off McFadzean over the goal-line.

McFadzean gave Cov hope when he headed home Todd Kane’s 83rd-minute corner.



MATCH

STATS

ALBION

1

0

WOLVES



Crucial point is in the Bagh

Barnsley.....1 Huddersfield.....1

POYA ASBAGHI picked up his first home point as Barnsley boss — and it might set his side on the path to salvation.

Tykes dented Huddersfield’s promotion push and Asbaghi, who arrived three games ago, said: “It’s a big improvement — that’s close to how I want to play.”

Lewis O’Brien (right) fired Terriers into a 33rd-minute lead but Carlton Morris drilled the leveller by the break.

Town chief Carlos Corberan said: “After no wins in two, we wanted to take three points, it’s frustrating.”



SCOTT’S FREE

By FRANKIE CHRISTOU

SCOTT PARKER believes having a rare week’s rest will help his Bournemouth side keep the pressure on Championship leaders Fulham.

The Cherries ground out a point at Craven Cottage to stay on the tails of Parker’s former side.

And with players having had just two days of training before, and others still out injured, the Bournemouth boss says seven days’ full rest will give his side a chance to regroup.

Parker, 41, said: “It’s unheard of, having a week off, so it is big for us because of our current situation.”

“A few extra days gives an opportunity for players who have not had a lot of training to get some work in

and others to get their injuries on the right side.

“We are in a bit of a run with injuries, they have all come at one point.” Parker says returning to Craven Cottage for the first time as an opposition manager did not phase him.

He added: “It was a game that was a top-of-the-table clash. The main thought was the team going out there and putting on a performance.

“It was nothing about me or my history at Fulham.

“This is work, this is business and this is how football is.

“My job is to keep improving us and pushing us to get what we all want.”

It’s Al about the Rams raider

Bristol City.....1 Derby.....0



TEENAGER Alex Scott sealed the win for Bristol City as Derby’s miserable campaign continued.

The rookie wing-back grabbed the only goal in the 16th minute.

Strikers Antoine Semenyo and Chris Martin both let the ball run away from them — but when it fell to 18-year-old Scott, he blasted it past Rams keeper Ryan Allsop.

Robins manager Nigel Pearson said: “It was a good result but to be perfectly honest we should have put the game to bed in the first half.”

Derby manager Wayne Rooney revealed: “It was a disappointing first half. It cost us.”

Boro keeping up with Jones

Middlesbrough.....1 Swansea.....0

CHRIS WILDER’S first home victory as Boro boss kept their play-off dream alive.

Middlesbrough are just four points outside the top six thanks to a first goal for the club for full-back Isaiah Jones (right).

He sidefooted past Swansea keeper Ben Hamer on the six-yard line on 26 minutes.

It was Wilder’s second win of the week.

He said: “Fair play to the young man. We got the goal, possibly should have buried the game but showed different qualities.”

Swans boss Russell Martin said: “We were punished for one poor moment.”



Sonny and Eli are head boys

Blackpool.....0 Luton.....3



SONNY BRADLEY and Elijah Adebayo both scored headers as Luton ended a four-game winless run.

Jordan Clark also netted as the Hatters won a first second-tier clash between the sides for 43 years.

Bradley struck just before the break. Adebayo got his ninth this term on 54 minutes and Clark tapped in during injury time.

Luton boss Nathan Jones said: “I’m delighted with the defensive display and scoring three goals away.”

Seaside’s manager Neil Critchley said: “We didn’t get that bit of luck and we conceded a goal just before half-time which changes the game.”

Forest Garner first win in four

Nottm Forest.....2 Peterboro.....0

JAMES GARNER hit his first goal of the season before Ryan Yates wrapped it up to take Nottingham Forest to within five points of the top six.

On-loan Manchester United man Garner and Yates struck in the last 18 minutes to bag Reds’ first win in four.

Forest gaffer Steve Cooper said: “We needed that win after three consecutive draws.

“We were very good in the second half and deserved to win it.”

Peterborough boss Darren Ferguson said: “I still believe in the players but we have to start scoring.”



GOAL... Garner

goals

CHAMPIONSHIP

17

BEN BRERETON DIAZ has scored 17 goals in 21 games for Blackburn in the Championship this season, as many as he'd netted in his previous five league seasons (17 in 133 apps).

BUENOS DIAZ... Rovers marksman Brereton Diaz celebrates his winner

HE'S BACK FOR

By ANDREW PENMAN

MORGAN GIBBS-WHITE starred on his return to South Wales.

The ex-Swansea loanee curled in a stunning equaliser on 61 minutes to cancel out Mark Harris' first-half opener for Cardiff.

He then teed up Billy Sharp and David McGoldrick to complete the comeback 15 minutes from time.

Mark McGuinness' last-minute header gave the hosts hope of claiming an unlikely point but Paul

Cardiff.....2
Sheffield Utd.....3

Heckingbottom deservedly made it two wins from two as Blades boss.

Gibbs-White, on loan from Wolves, took the game by the scruff of the neck following Sean Morrison's red card for chopping down Sharp on 52 minutes.

And Heckingbottom said: "Morgan was excellent. But it wasn't just him. The first goal was a piece of

individual brilliance. The second goal he was heavily involved but it was a fantastic team goal, and the third was as well.

"It was definitely a deserved win. To go in 1-0 down at half-time was really disappointing – I was angry.

"But I'm pleased with how we responded, how we moved the ball and the type of goals we scored."

Cardiff chief Steve Morison felt the red card changed the match. He said: "The sending-off killed us but everything around that was really good – it was a positive

BEN A BEAUT

Razzle Diazzle for Rovers

By ALAN NIXON

BEN BRERETON DIAZ sent Blackburn into fourth and multiplied his transfer value.

Rovers' Chile international goal machine took his total to the season to 17 with the kind of stunning finish that has made him a £25million target for Prem clubs.

The likes of Spanish giants Sevilla also want the super striker but boss Tony Mowbray hopes his owners stay strong and refuse to sell.

He said: "I would like to keep him and give him a new contract. "We should be adding to what we have and not taking anything away. If we lost Ben, even through injury, how do we win games?"

"He is a great kid and works really hard for the lads. If Ben goes, my first question would be how much I was getting."

"It's about ambition and we showed that when we signed him. If there was more money to bring people in that would be great."

Brereton Diaz flashed his head on Reda Khadra's sweet 53rd-minute cross and gleefully watched his effort fly in off the far post.

It was a moment of sheer quality above a soaked pitch that settled this Lancashire derby.

Rovers badly needed Brereton Diaz to come up with the goods, with little openings on a day that did not suit their style.

The tight clash cried out for a touch of class to settle it among all of the endeavour and before some controversy late on.

Preston's Josh Earl yelled for a penalty when he smashed a cross

Blackburn.....1
Preston.....0

into Ryan Nyambe but referee Gavin Ward ignored the appeals.

North End boss Frankie McAvoy said: "I have seen it and the ball hits the guy's hand and it's away from his body. I don't know why it wasn't given."

"We had the better of the first half and one bit of quality won it."

"But it was too cheap for the ball to come over and letting someone get in front for a header."

Preston had initially adjusted better to the conditions.

Ched Evans met a corner sweetly but stand-in keeper Aynsley Pears made a sharp reaction save.

Industrious Ali McCann shot narrowly wide for North End.

And Khadra's trickling shot was all that keeper Daniel Iversen had to deal with in the first half.

Mowbray was wound up by Ward changing his mind on a decision and earned a yellow card for his comments just before half-time.

But the goal came out of the blue despite Rovers being much better in the second half.

Brereton Diaz almost grabbed a late second when he jinked into the box and brought a fine low save out of Iversen.

Centre-half Liam Lindsay's blocked shot was the best North End could muster.

McAvoy added: "We have taken a big away following and they have left empty-handed. That's what p****s me off."

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3

SHEFFIELD UNITED have won each of their last three league games — their longest winning run since another run of three in the Premier League in December 2019.

4

TOM BRADSHAW has scored four goals in 11 league games for Millwall this season, already equalling his goal tally from the whole of 2020-21 (29 apps). He's netted as many goals in his last six Championship appearances (four) as he managed in his previous 53.

in association with



MOR



CROSS, STITCHES . . . McGoldrick and Sharp

Deenied

LIONS ROAR TO THWART TROY

By JOHN DILLON

MILLWALL ruthlessly ended their four-game winless run despite a stunning strike from Birmingham's Troy Deeney.

The South Londoners were already two up before Deeney's thumping drive from the edge of the box after 56 minutes — thanks to first-half goals from Murray Wallace and Tom Bradshaw.

And they wrapped it up with an equally impressive 20-yard curler from George Evans on 73 minutes. It revived the Lions' play-off drive after three straight draws and a defeat.

The game stopped in the sixth minute while the players joined fans of both teams in loud applause in remembrance of murdered six-year-old Blues fan Arthur Labinjo-Hughes.

Birmingham's players wore warm-up T-shirts with the message: "Arthur We Love You."

Acting captain Deeney said: "It has been a tough week for the city. This has touched a nerve."

"For the players and all the crowd to applaud like that puts things into perspective."

Millwall boss Gary Rowett added: "We wanted to show

Millwall.....3
Birmingham.....1

respect for the young boy. The response was fabulous."

He went on: "That was as complete a performance as we have had. I'm disappointed that we didn't score more than three."

"We were excellent and our front three were a real handful."

Millwall went ahead in the tenth minute — with defender Wallace firing home from 12 yards following Shaun Hutchinson's short touch.

And they went further in front after 41 minutes when Bradshaw powerfully headed home from Scott Malone's left-wing corner.

Birmingham came to life in the 56th minute thanks to 33-year-old Deeney's forceful effort.

He worked a clever one-two with Scott Hogan before crashing home a fierce, rising shot into the top left-hand corner from the edge of the penalty area.

But Evans' sweetly crafted curling shot from 20 yards delivered Millwall's third goal after a clever cut-back from Danny McNamara.

City boss Lee Bowyer said: "If you don't compete when you come here, you are in trouble."



it's who you play with

William HILL

BeGambleAware.org

18+



SLIDE RULE . . .
Tom Bradshaw enjoys putting Millwall two-up

R's plan to make light of battle

MARK WARBURTON wants QPR to put 'daylight' between his R's and the rest of the chasing pack.

Hoops went unbeaten in November and three points at home to Stoke today will take them up to third.

Boss Warburton said: "It was a very pleasing November for us — but we have to maintain it now."

"It's a chance for us to put daylight between ourselves and another competitor. It's

QPR v Stoke
2.30pm, Sky Sports football

opportunity. You can't afford to look too far forward in this division."

"You can get hurt if you do that. It's all about the next game."

"If we, as a group of staff and players, can become entrenched in that we'll be in a good place."

FA CUP

5

CAMBRIDGE are through to the FA Cup third round for the first time in five years (2016-17 season), where they eventually lost 2-1 at home against Leeds.

16

SHREWSBURY are unbeaten in their last 16 FA Cup matches against non-Premier League opponents — recording 12 wins and four draws.

AFC WIM'DON (2) 4 CHELTENHAM (1) 3

Assal 36, 55
Palmer 41, 65
May 2
Williams 73
Nehenghan 81 (og)
Att: 4,322

AFC Wimbledon: Tzanev, Osaw (Lawrence 86), Nehenghan, Cseka, Guinness-Walker, Woodyard, Harigan (Marsh 68), Assal (Kaja 69), McCormick, Rudoni, Palmer (Presley 68). Subs not used: Chislett, Mebude, Oualah, Jenkins, Robinson. Booked: McCormick, Woodyard.

Cheltenham: Flinders, Horton, Long (Raglan 62), Pollock, Hussey, Sercombe, Chapman, Joseph (Williams 62), Crowley (Blair 46), May (Norton 61), Wright (Barkers 72). Subs not used: Evans, Armitage. Booked: Horton, Hussey, Norton.

BRISTOL R (0) 2 SUTTON (0) 1

Collins 57 (pen)
Anderton 60
Randall 52
Att: 4,456

Bristol Rovers: Belslaw, Taylor, Harries, Anderton, Anderson, Whelan, Coutts, Finley, Collins, Nicholson (Pitman 76), Evans. Subs not used: Thomas, Westbrooke, Martinez, Clarke, Spence, Hoole, Ward, Jones. Booked: Evans, Taylor.

Sutton Utd: Bouzanis, Barden, Goodfille (Bennett 83), John, Milson, Randall (Korbo 70), Davis, Eastmond, Aiboye (Baldewin 83), Olafse (Wilson 36), Bugiel. Subs not used: Dundas, Chalupnickaz. Booked: Davis, Eastmond.

BURTON ALB (1) 1 PORT VALE (0) 2

Leak 23
Politt 79, 82
Att: 3,539

Burton Albion: Garratt, Shaughnessy, Leak, Oshilaja, Hamer, Taylor (Chapman 87), O'Connor (Mancienne 64), Borthwick-Jackson, Smith, Jebbison (Holloway 87), Hemmings. Subs not used: Morris, Powell, Akins, Patrick, Balcombe, Lakin. Booked: Shaughnessy.

Port Vale: Stone, Smith, Martin (Worrall 62), Jones, Gibbons, Gairly, Conlon, Pett, Berrington (Cass 62), Amoo (Politt 74), Rodney (Walker 90). Subs not used: Burgess, Lucas Covolan, Legge, Johnson, Amos.

BUXTON (0) 0 MORECAMBE (1) 1

Stockton 29
Att: 3,642

Morecambe: Letheren, McLaughlin, O'Connor, Delaney, Leigh, McLoughlin, Diagouraga, McCalmont (Jones 68), McDonald, Stockton, Gnahoua (Ayunga 67). Subs not used: Oloka, Phillips, Andresson, Cooney, Gibson, Dufus, Wootton.

CARLISLE (0) 1 SHREWSBURY (1) 2

Gibson 90
Bloxham 10
Bowman 78
Att: 2,794

Carlisle: Howard, Mellor (Devine 27), McDonald, Feeney, Armer, Young (Charters 61), Guy, Whelan, Dikensson, Abrahams (Mampala 62 (Fishburn 62)), Clough (Gibson 35). Subs not used: Dinzeyi, Breeze, Bell, Ellis. Booked: Clough, Feeney, Whelan.

Shrewsbury: Marosi, Pennington, Leahy, Ebanks-Landell (Daniels 21), Nurse, Bennett, Vela, Ogbeta (Caton 85), Udoh (Cosgrove 85), Bloxham (Leshabela 89), Bowman. Subs not used: Burgoyne, Wilson, Kaminda, Craig, Booked: Pennington, Udoh, Vela, Vela.

DONCASTER (1) 2 MANSFIELD (0) 3

Horton 8
Rowe 74
Forrester 48
Lapslie 60, 71
Att: 7,040

Doncaster: Jones, Knyole, Anderson, Horton, Rowe, Smith, Hasani, Ravenhill (Blythe 57), Hiwula, Dodo, Barlow (Cukur 64). Subs not used: Dahlberg, Kuleya, Cole, Faulkner, Wilds, Henson. Booked: Ravenhill.

Mansfield: Bishop, Hewitt, O'Toole, Forrester, McLaughlin (Bowery 46), Lapslie, Stirik, Clarke (Charsley 90), Quinn, Oates (Sinclair 80), Maris. Subs not used: Shelvey, Burke, Ward, Law, Mason. Booked: Stirik.

IPSWICH (0) 0 BARROW (0) 0

Att: 6,425

Ipswich: Walton, Donacien, Nsiala, Burgess, Clements, Morsy, El Mizouni (Pigott 46), Jackson (Aluko 74), Chaplin (Humphreys 85), Fraser, Bonney. Subs not used: Harper, Evans, Vincent-Young, Carroll, Hladky, Alexander. Booked: El Mizouni, Morsy.

Barrow: Farman, J Jones, Ellis, Grayson, Brown, Banks (Taylor 90), White (Zanzala 63), Gotts, Brough, Gordon, Kay (Stevens 86). Subs not used: M Jones, Beadling, Lillis, Hutton, Arthur, James. Booked: Brown.

L ORIENT (2) 4 TRANMERE (0) 0

Smith 22, 83
Beckles 36
Drinan 60 (pen)
Att: 3,248

Lorient: Bishop, Hewitt, O'Toole, Forrester, McLaughlin (Bowery 46), Lapslie, Stirik, Clarke (Charsley 90), Quinn, Oates (Sinclair 80), Maris. Subs not used: Shelvey, Burke, Ward, Law, Mason. Booked: Stirik.

LEAGUE ONE RESULTS & TABLE

ACCRINGTON (1) 5 FLEETWOOD (0) 1

Hamilton 29, 90
Bishop 46, 78
Coyle 72
Att: 1,901

Accrington: Savin, Sykes, Nottingham (Malcolm 89), Amankwah, Rodgers, Connolly, Pell (O'Sullivan 85), Hamilton, Mumbongo (Coyle 68), McCornville, Bishop. Subs not used: Trafford, Procter, Mansell, Nolan. Booked: Hamilton.

Fleetwood: Cairns, Johnson (Morris 75), Clarke, McLaughlin (Andrew, Lane (Conn-Claire 75)), Batty, Molete, Hayes, Garner (Biggins 26), Morton. Subs not used: Crellin, Boyle, Johnston, Bird. Booked: Hayes, Lane. Sent-off: Batty.

SUNDERLAND (1) 1 OXFORD (1) 1

Dajaku 7
Taylor 36
Att: 26,634

Sunderland: Hoffmann, Wright, Flanagan, Doyle, Gooch, Neil, Pritchard (O'Brien 85), Winchester, Dajaku (Embleton 66), Stewart, Broadhead. Subs not used: Patterson, Younger, Dyce, Mbunga-Kimpoka, Johnson. Booked: Neil, Wright.

Oxford Utd: Eastwood, Forde, McNally, Moore, Long, Henry (McGuane 74), Kane, Brannagan, Whyte, Taylor (Agreji 74), Holland (Sykes 82). Subs not used: Thornley, Williams, Bodin, Plumley. Booked: Brannagan, Taylor.

Leyton Orient: Vigoroux, Thompson, Beckles, Ogie (Happe 85), James, Kyprianou, Clay (Pratley 55), Archibald, Kemp (Young 69), Smith, Drinan. Subs not used: Sargeant, Wood, Omofoye, Soltriu, Papadopoulos, Byrne.

Tranmere: Doohan, Dacres-Cogley, O'Connor, Clarke, Knight-Perovcal, MacDonald (McManaman 56), Morris, Spiering, Foley, Harkes (Watson 46), Glazell (Newitt 71), Maynard (Dieseruwes 56). Subs not used: Merrie, Feeney, Murphy, Duffy. Booked: Dacres-Cogley, Knight-Perovcal, Spiering.

LINCOLN (0) 0 HARTLEPOOL (0) 1

Att: 5,506
Fiorini 52 (og)

Lincoln City: Long, Poole (Sanders 63), Montsma, Jackson, Robson (Bramall 74), McGrandles, Fiorini, Maguire, Bishop, N'Lundulu, Adekun. Subs not used: Howarth, Sorensen, Ejyoma, Eridcutt, Mair, Roughan. Booked: Maguire.

Hartlepool: Killip, Ogle, Byrne, Liddle, Odusina, Ferguson, Shelton, Featherstone, Daly (Holohan 87), Molyneux, Cullen (Goodwin 76). Subs not used: Jones, Smith, Crawford, Francis-Angol, Hendrie, Mitchell, Fondop-Talom. Booked: Holohan.

PORTSMOUTH (1) 1 HARROGATE (1) 2

Harrison 45
Armstrong 44
Diamond 90
Att: 7,857

Portsmouth: Bazunu, Freeman (Brown 57), Raggett, Ogilvie, Romeo, Williams, Azeze, Hackett-Farchild (Marquis 75), Harness, Jacobs, Harrison (Curtis 60). Subs not used: Ahadme, Jewitt-White, Payce, Bass, Gifford, Hughes. Booked: Azeze, Ogilvie, Williams.

Harrrogate Town: Oxley, Sheron, Burrell, Hall, Page, Pattison, Falkingham, Kerry, Thomson, Armstrong, Diamond. Subs not used: Ori-Dadomo, Cracknell, Muldoon, Power. Booked: Burrell, Diamond, Hall, Kerry.

WALSALL (1) 1 SWINDON (1) 2

Osadebe 37
Att: 4,331
Simpson 16
Kesler 67

Walsall: Rushworth, White, Menayese, Monthe, Mills (Khan 73), Labadie, Earing, Wilkinson, Osadebe (Kinsella 66), Phillips, Miller (Shade 73). Subs not used: Rose, Taylor, Kiernan, Bates, Perry, Wilcock. Booked: Khan, Monthe, White.

Swindon: Wollacott, Conroy, Odumayo, Hunt, Kesler, Payne, Reed, Williams (Gladwin 66), Iandolo (Crichlow-Noble 84), McKirdy (Mitchell-Lawson 75), Simpson. Subs not used: Lyden, Ward, Gilbert, East, Dabre, Fox. Booked: McKirdy, Reed.

YEOVIL (0) 1 STEVENAGE (0) 0

Wakefield 51

Yeovil: Smith, Moss, Wilkinson, Hunt, Williams, Gorman, Staunton, Worthington, Wakefield (Bradley 90), Yussuf (Knowles 66), Lo-Everson (Reid 81). Subs not used: Haste, Evans. Booked: Staunton, Wilkinson.

Stevenage: A Smith, Wildin, Vancooten, Prosser (Norris 57), Melbourne, Osborne (Barry 73), Taylor, Reeves, Andrade, List, Reid (Read 73). Subs not used: Anang, Coker, Lines, Daly, J Smith, Marshall. Booked: Reeves.

CAMBRIDGE (1) 2 EXETER (1) 1

May 23
Knibbs 88
Nombe 10 (pen)
Att: 2,834

Cambridge Utd: Mitov, Williams, Okedina, Iredale, Dunk (Masterson 80), Digby, May (Weir 80), Tracey (Smith 62), Hoolahan, Brophy (Knibbs 80), Ironside. Subs not used: McKenzie-Lyle, Lankester, Worman. Booked: Okedina.

Exeter: Dawson, Sweeney (Coyle 63), Jay (Amund 90), Grounds (Hartidge 62), Key, Collins, Kite (Edwards 90), Caprice, Jay, Nombe (Read 73). Subs not used: Anang, Sparkes, Stubbs, Daniel, S Brown. Booked: Caprice, Collins, Dawson, Ray.

PLAYED FRIDAY

GATESHEAD (0) 0 CHARLTON (1) 2

Stockley 30, 54

Charlton: Henderson, Clare, Elerewe, Farnewo, Dobson, Jayesimi (Leko 73), Gilbey, Lee (Morgan 66), Purrington (Souare 82), Washington (Davison 73), Stockley. Subs not used: MacGillivray, Gunter, Kirk, Arnd, Watson. Booked: Elerewe.

ROTHERHAM (1) 1 STOCKPORT C (0) 0

Smith 43
Att: 6,466

Rotherham: Vickers, Edmonds-Green, Wood (Harding 46), Ihekwe, Ogbene, Wiles, Barlasier (Odofin 81), Miller (Mattock 81), Rathbone (Lindsay 65), Ladapo, Smith (Grigg 75). Subs not used: Johansson, Sadler, Bola, Kayode. Booked: Ladapo, Mattock, Miller, Smith.

Stockport County: Hinchliffe, Barclay (Hogan 77), Palmer, Kitching (Raikhy 85), Southam-Hales, Collar (Madden 55), Croasdale (Rooney 85), Rydel, Sarcevic, Crankshaw (Jennings 77), Quigley. Subs not used: Minihan, Fish, Ross, Fyres. Booked: Collar, Sarcevic, Southam-Hales.

Cambridge Utd.....2 Exeter.....1

SUB Harvey Knibbs notched a controversial late winner for Cambridge that left Exeter fuming.

An assistant's flag appeared to rule out his 88th-minute header for the League One side.

But U's players claimed it was Sam Smith off-side and not interfering before referee David Rock spoke to his assistant and gave the goal.

League Two Grecians boss Matt Taylor fumed: "I still don't fully understand it because there was an offside player five yards out from the goal. He has affected our back-line, our keeper."

U's No 2 Gary Waddock said: "The important thing is the goal stood and we're in the draw."

Sam Nomb's tenth-minute penalty gave Exeter the lead after he was tripped by Jubril Okedina.

Adam May's blast levelled and Knibbs got the winner before United's Joe Ironside's had a last-gasp penalty pushed away by Cameron Dawson.



BLOXHAM . . . important goal

Carlisle.....1 Shrewsbury.....2

TEENAGE striker Tom Bloxham was at the wheel as League One Shrewsbury overcame their struggling fourth-tier hosts.

Bloxham, 18, passed his driving test last Friday and marked his ninth-minute goal with a steering wheel celebration.

Carlisle-born Ryan Bowman sealed victory 13 minutes from the end before Jordan Gibson's stoppage-time consolation.

Shrews manager Steve Cotterill said: "When he was 17, I wanted to get Tom through his driving test so he was a bit more independent."

"We sorted him out some lessons but he failed the first one. We are delighted for him."

Carlisle fans threw tennis balls in protest at the board, Assistant boss Gavin Skelton said: "Our performance level was really good. However, we didn't work the keeper enough."



BY GEORGE. . . Lapslie fires Mansfield's third past Rovers keeper Louis Jones

MATCH STATS	
Doncaster	Mansfield
3	10
3	7
50%	50%
3	11
13	9
7	4
2	1
1	1

Laps it up!

GEORGE DUMPS DONNY

By DAVID FLETT

GEORGE LAPSLIE scored two and teed up a third as Mansfield shocked Doncaster.

It was Nigel Clough's team's seventh win in eight contests, after 14 games without a win.

And it was the least they deserved against sorry League One Rovers, who only created three chances in their first outing since the sacking of boss Richie Wellens.

All of the visitors' goals were scored in front of a packed away end of 3,300 supporters.

And Stags manager Clough said: "You can't under-estimate the significance of that."

The players enjoyed kicking towards them and so they should.

"I was a bit frustrated at half-time with the way we had performed but the second 45 was as

Doncaster.....2 Mansfield.....3

good as we have been for a while. In normal circumstances, you wouldn't want George Lapslie and Jordan Bowery playing as wing-backs but we had eight players out, so it was an even better result in that context."

Doncaster are the lowest scorers in the Football League but netted for the first time in five games on seven minutes when Branden Horton tapped in Joe Dodo's cross.

The comeback began, however, when Will Forrester headed in after Lapslie had helped on a George Maris corner.

Lapslie then converted a centre from Bowery before applying the final touch to a slick visitors' move

on 71 minutes. Doncaster's Tommy Rowe claimed his fifth goal of the season with a 20-yard strike after a short free-kick by Dodo.

But it never looked like saving the hosts from a fourth straight loss and an FA Cup giant-killing against a team a division below them.

And former Coventry attacker McSheffrey, promoted from his role as Under-18s coach, insisted his inherited squad need to stop feeling sorry for themselves.

They are stranded 23rd in League One and McSheffrey said: "There are some wounded animals in the dressing room and heads have dropped, but tough times don't last and some of the boys need to gain some perspective."

"There are a lot of people worse off than them and a lot of people would like to be in the privileged place they are in."



WIMBLEDON have lost only one of their five home games against Cheltenham (W3 D1) — with both teams finding the net in all five matches.



FA CUP FASTEST & LATEST GOALS

FASTEST - Alfie May (Cheltenham) 1m 14s

LATEST - Jack Diamond (Harrogate) 94m 11s

in association with



POLITIC... supersub

Dennis menace goes for Burton

Burton.....1
Port Vale.....2

By TONY RUSHMER

DARRELL CLARKE hailed super sub Dennis Politic after his three-minute double sent Port Vale marching on.

Ryan Leak put League One Burton ahead on 23 minutes but Politic replaced David Amoo on 74 minutes — and then the fireworks started.

He popped up with strikes on 79 and 82 minutes to cause an upset and put League Two Vale into the hat for Monday night's draw.

Valiants boss Clarke said: "Dennis is 70 per cent fit, that's the reason we didn't start the game.

"He came off injured against Rotherham and was taking a penalty with his left foot yesterday because of his right groin. He's a tremendous talent.

"I'm delighted with the response from the players after going a goal down, it was a great FA Cup tie in very bad conditions.

"I couldn't give a monkey that we didn't use the wind to our advantage in the first half, it's about winning football matches and we're in the third round of the Cup."

Burton boss Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink said: "We are not good enough to be at 60 per cent and beat teams like those.

"They won the midfield and second balls and we dwelled too much on the ball.

"We can't depend on our keeper to make saves all the time.

"When you're winning 1-0, good teams make it 2-0 but they kept on believing. We needed that second goal."



HOT COLE... Stockton hit winner

OLLIE DAY

Palmer back on form after hip hell

By BEN BACON

OLLIE PALMER fired Dons into the big-boys' draw with a double strike after revealing he came close to retiring last season.

Palmer, 29, considered quitting after a serious hip problem meant he could not even tie his shoelaces.

It kept him out for six months and he said: "It was so tough. I didn't really know how to deal with it. I thought about retiring. It was a recurring injury and kept me holding me back.

"I just didn't see any light at the end of the tunnel."

Now Palmer is playing better than ever and proved it in this thriller by scoring his fifth goal in four games for Wimbledon. Plus he assisted another.

Palmer, all 6ft 5ins, has stepped comfortably into the boots of last season's 22-goal top-scorer Joe Pigott, who moved to Ipswich in the summer.

Wimbledon.....4
Cheltenham.....3

Dons boss Mark Robinson rated Palmer "outstanding" and now hopes to land Leeds in tomorrow's third-round draw.

Robinson said: "A Premier League club at home would be great.

"I'd like Leeds. I'm an admirer of their manager, Marcelo Bielsa, and we're both pressing teams."

On his side's victory in a seven-goal game, he added: "It was crazy. They couldn't cope with us at times but we gave them three goals and a lifeline.

"In spells, we played some of our best football of the season."

Cheltenham, unbeaten in their last eight, got off to a flier as Alfie May netted just 71 seconds in.

But former Chelsea youngster Luke McCormick, a growing influence in the

midfield at Plough Lane, triggered the comeback setting up Ayoub Assal's leveller on 36 minutes, then hitting the bar for Palmer to convert five minutes later.

Soon after the break, battling Palmer fed Assal for his second goal and a 3-1 lead — then used his brute strength to claim his own double with 25 minutes left.

Andy Williams netted for the visitors in the 73rd minute and an own goal by Ben Heneghan gave them hope.

Dons keeper Nik Tzanev pulled off two superb saves late on to prevent a replay.



Michael Duff's Robins are six League One points above Dons and also reached the fourth round of the Cup last season — losing 3-1 at home to Manchester City — but they did not get going here.

Duff said: "We didn't deserve anything from the game. After our good run, I didn't see that result coming.

"We didn't do any part of the game well. Poor goals, physicality poor. We didn't compete. It was unlike us."



WORTH THE ASSAL... Dons man Assou drills home

	MATCH STATS		
Wimbledon		V	Cheltenham
13	Shots		8
7	Shots on target		4
52%	Possession		48%
11	Touches in opposition box		7
6	Fouls conceded		4
6	Corners		7
5	Offsides		2
2	Yellow cards		3



WAKEFIELD... winner

Proper Charlie is hero in upset

Yeovil.....1
Stevenage.....0

By VIC HOLLY

CHARLIE WAKEFIELD blasted the only goal as National League Yeovil dumped out League Two Stevenage.

The former Chelsea youngster controlled and finished brilliantly early in the second half to send Stevenage packing in their first game under new boss Paul Tisdale.

It was also sweet revenge for Glovers boss Darren Sarll — who was sacked by Borough in 2018.

Sarll said: "You have to enjoy every win because in the blink of an eye that feeling is gone.

"It's extra special that it's against my old club!

"We will take whoever we get in the draw now and it will be exciting to see."

Stevenage had the best chances in the first half — with Yeovil indebted to keeper Grant Smith for a series of fine saves.

But the hosts struck on 51 minutes when defensive dawdling allowed Sonny Blu Lo-Everton a run on goal, and he fed Wakefield to unleash a fierce low drive into the net.

Jamie Reid should have equalised for the visitors when he raced clean through but Smith stood firm to save with his legs and secure Yeovil's third-round slot.

New gaffer Tisdale said: "We created enough chances to have scored a goal so we could definitely have got a result.

"There was a lot of good stuff.

"I'm bitterly disappointed, of course, but there's lots to build on."

Buxton.....0 Morecambe.....1

STEVE CUNNINGHAM was almost in tears as his Buxton side bowed out.

A first-half Cole Stockton goal was enough to defeat the lowest-ranking side left in the competition in front of Buxton's biggest home crowd since 1962 — over 3,000.

Cunningham, boss of the seventh-tier Northern Premier League side, said: "I could have cried with the lads after the game.

"I was proud of every single one of the lads.

"And I thought we were the better team for large parts of

the game. Their goal was offside and we hit the post early on. Those are the fine lines in football."

League One Morecambe were relieved to come away with a win and boss Stephen Robinson said: "This was a game where the conditions were a real leveller and everyone was looking at a shock.

"We had to be professional because it was all about getting into the third round and the lads did that.

"Buxton are a good side but we kept things tight and could have won by more."



LOW BLOW... Anderton scored

Bristol Rovers.....2 Sutton Utd.....1

NICK ANDERTON stooped to conquer as Rovers came from behind to book a potentially money-spinning third-round clash.

It proved to be a happy end to what has been a tough week in court for the Gas boss Joey Barton, who is accused of attacking Barnsley boss Daniel Stendel in 2019.

Barton said: "There's a lot of Scousers in our dressing room so a lot of them want us to draw Liverpool now."

It was a dismal opening 45 minutes between these League

Two rivals. Antony Evans went close for Rovers, while James Belshaw saved superbly from Sutton's Craig Eastmond.

Both sides then scored shortly after the restart.

Will Randall-Hurren broke the deadlock for Sutton as he converted Donovan Wilson's low cross.

Then Aaron Collins fired in a penalty leveller after Louis John felled Harry Anderson.

Three minutes later Anderton got down low to head the winner on the hour.

Sutton boss Matt Gray said: "It just wasn't our day."

goals FA CUP

3RD RND
DRAW

THE draw for the FA Cup third round will take place tomorrow at 7pm. It will be held before the final second round tie between Boreham Wood and St Albans City on ITV. With

the Premier League big boys and Championship clubs entering the competition at this stage, it's one of the biggest events in the English football calendar.

BRACE
... Harry
Smith

Harry is so happy

Orient.4
Tranmere.....0

HARRY SMITH'S brace helped Orient make a mockery of Tranmere's mean defensive record.

The striker collected a brilliant ball from Hector Kyprianou to drive home after 22 minutes.

Omar Beckles netted following a corner, then Aaron Drinan drilled in a penalty on the hour after his shot had hit a hand.

Smith completed the rout against the team who share the best defensive record in League Two — 14 — when he slid in at the far post to convert Kyprianou's cross.

Rovers boss Micky Mellon said: "It's bewildering. We've let people down."

O's No 2 Joe Gallen said: "The most important thing is the confidence this brings after a couple of games without a win."

Walsall.....1
Swindon.....2

SWINDON continued their amazing away run to reach the third round for the first time in a decade.

Loanees Tyreece Simpson and Kaine Kesler Hayden struck either side of Emmanuel Osadebe's header for Walsall to give the League Two Robins an eighth straight away win.

Manager Ben Garner said: "It would be great to get an away tie against a big club as it's a bigger game and more money."

"I would take anyone in the top six of the Premier League for a start!"

Walsall boss Matt Taylor fumed: "We shouldn't be out. They took their big moments and we didn't."

Ipswich.....0
Barrow.....0

IPSWICH axed boss Paul Cook as fans turned on him after League Two Barrow forced a replay.

The League One Tractor Boys were booted off.

Cook, only appointed in March, managed just 13 wins from his 44 games.

He said before he was sacked: "The stadium was not a very nice environment in the first half."

"The supporters are quite right to have a go — we showed no intensity and no energy."

Joe Pigott and Cameron Humphreys both hit the woodwork for Ipswich.

Bluebirds boss Mark Cooper said: "We had to defend well to hang on."

DIAMOND'S FOR EVER

Jack's gem for historic Harrogate

By MIKE DONOVAN

JACK DIAMOND shone bright as his injury-time winner put Harrogate Town into the third round for the first time in their 102-year history.

Ellis Harrison thought he had rescued two-time FA Cup winners Portsmouth.

But Diamond (left) ensured League Two Harrogate a shot at the big boys in the 95th minute.

Manager Simon Weaver said: "We have won the FA Trophy and got into the league, but this is up there with the biggest moments in the club's history."

"We want the best of the

Portsmouth.....1
Harrogate.....2

best in the third round. Liverpool, Manchester City or, because it would be quite local, Leeds would be amazing.

"It's exciting. It is great for the town. We are feeling brilliant."

"We were outstanding. It was a dynamic performance and we showed great attitude."

"We have players who have been with us for a while who are getting better and better."

"It wasn't backs to the wall, smash and grab. We played some great football to catch them on the break."

"I'm pleased for Jack. Like

others he was so quick on the break and that is what happened for the winner.

"There was belief we could do the job and we did. These lads don't think anywhere is too intimidating."

League One Pompey, looking for a seventh straight win, struggled to find their rhythm.

Luke Armstrong put Harrogate in front a minute before half-time. Lloyd Kerry robbed dithering Shaun Williams and fed Armstrong to arrow home his tenth goal of the season.

But almost immediately, Harrison equalised.

Michael Jacobs had an effort blocked just inside the box and the ball spun to Harrison, who fired home on the angle from ten

yards. Harrison and Reeco Hackett-Fairchild came close for Pompey after the break.

But Harrogate threatened and Kerry, twice, and Armstrong went close while Alex Pattison and Diamond missed chances.

But Diamond stretched to divert a Lewis Page pull-back with seconds left.

Portsmouth's team have been suffering with a sickness bug and boss Danny Cowley said: "Our preparation was disrupted but Harrogate were fully deserving of the victory."

"They took their chances. They were excited to be playing at Fratton Park."

"It is difficult to be positive. Time to wallow in our own self-pity!"



LUCK'S IN... Hartlepool's Mark Shelton celebrates after Lewis Fiorini's key own goal

Glee for Lee but Lew's in a stew

NEW BOSS Graeme Lee hailed his Hartlepool underdogs after seeing off League One Lincoln.

An own goal from Lewis Fiorini proved the difference for the League Two strugglers to the delight of Lee.

He said: "It's been an unbelievable week, topped off by the performance and result."

"As a new manager it can be difficult to bring out the best of your players. The fans were amazing from start to finish."

"The end of the match is something I'll remember for the rest of my life." In an

Lincoln.....0
Hartlepool.....1

even first half, Matt Daly squandered Lincoln's best chance and Fiorini shot wide.

But after half-time Mark Shelton's shot was diverted into his own net by Fiorini.

Imps boss Michael Appleton said: "There was nervousness about our play."

"Their goal was about the only time they'd been in our box in the second half."

Nev wants Salford flying first Class

By PHIL CADDEN

GARY NEVILLE and his Class of '92 pals want to turn Salford into a global force.

The Manchester United legend, 46, is a co-owner of the League Two club — alongside ex-Red Devils team-mates Nicky Butt, David Beckham, Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and brother Phil.

Neville revealed plans to take the club to Asia more regularly while Butt is eyeing the Prem. Salford host Chesterfield in the

Salford v Chesterfield

5.15pm, ITV4

FA Cup second round today and Neville said: "It feels like a very big moment for Salford City now."

"We started off with 180 people watching, now we're up to 3,500."

"We have grown enormously in terms of fanbase. We're in the league, moving to a new stadium and looking for that amplification of the football club across Greater Manchester, England and

Asia as well. Now we have to step up our next plan."

"When we started five years ago we wanted to be an online football club, 24 hours a day, so people could see where we were."

"We did the documentary in the UK, which was a success, but to transport that internationally we have to look at technology and global digital growth — Asia is at the forefront of that."

"We've always wanted to do a global academy."

"That can't just be physical. You have to connect with a wider

audience digitally and online. Our journeys over to Asia will be more in the next six months."

Salford have the support of Singapore billionaire Peter Lim, who owns 40 per cent of the club.

Butt, speaking to football media tech platform ZujuGP, added: "Our aim is to get to the Premier League. You say that in certain circles and you get laughed at. We've been winners all our lives. It's a dream I believe we'll fulfil."

Ryan Giggs added: "Everything is on the table. Salford City is evolving all the time."



NEVILLE... huge plans

goals LEAGUE ONE

11

SUNDERLAND are unbeaten against Oxford United in their last 11 league meetings (W5 D6) — with that run stretching back to September 1997.

in association with



HAMILTON... double

Five-star show for Coleman

Accrington.....5
Fleetwood.....1

By SIMON YAFFE

JOHN COLEMAN hailed his five-star Accrington after they thumped a woeful ten-man Fleetwood.

Doubles from Colby Bishop and Ethan Hamilton, plus one from Liam Coyle, sealed back-to-back league wins.

Accrington boss Coleman said: "It's six points from our last two league games and we are delighted with the win. It puts a bit of distance between us and the bottom teams."

The visitors were reduced to ten men on 23 minutes when Daniel Batty fouled Harvey Rodgers.

Accrington went in front six minutes later when Hamilton met Bishop's pass to drill in.

Provider turned poacher on 56 minutes after Bishop chested down Sean McConville's ball to net.

Fleetwood — without a league win in eight — pulled one back through Harrison Biggins.

But Coyle curled in Stanley's third, before a Bishop backheel and Hamilton's late second.

Fleetwood caretaker manager Stephen Crainey said: "We've got some good young players here — but they need to become men."



ON FIRE... Leon Dajaku nets before (below) Taylor's leveller

Taylor wags

MATT'S BACK IN STYLE

By TONY LITTLE

MATTY TAYLOR took centre stage after isolation to earn Oxford a point at Sunderland.

Taylor was one of four U's stars to return to action after a Covid crisis. He celebrated by firing low inside the far corner on 36 minutes after Nathan Holland had picked him out.

That lifted Oxford up to seventh and prevented the Black Cats from joining the three leading sides at the top on 38 points.

Oxford boss Karl Robinson said: "Matty is a great example of how we had to cope."

"The players all struggled. The subs we made were because of that."

"We would have taken a point before the game. I was quite bored second half — we were one-dimensional in all aspects of our game."

Sunderland, without eight senior players through injury, had taken a seventh-minute lead when on-loan German wideman Leon Dajaku beat his man then rolled in a neat finish.

After the restart Sunderland

Sunderland.....1
Oxford Utd.....1

changed things and it almost brought rewards.

Scotland striker Ross Stewart hit the crossbar and Nathan Broadhead rattled a post in the later stages.

Sunderland boss Lee Johnson said: "There were seven academy graduates in and around the squad today — which highlights the injury scenario."

"But you have to credit these boys for how hard they have worked against a very good Oxford side."

"We flipped the shape second half, a different square peg in a different round hole — but we couldn't get that ball over the line."

"Whether that was good goalkeeping, bad finishing, the numerous corners, we just failed to get that magic final delivery in."

"You have to be consistent, creative and do everything you can to score two and threes. I think we did enough to score two or three but for whatever reason it didn't happen."

SCOTS CORNER

CINCH PREMIERSHIP	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ABERDEEN (3)	4	ST MIRREN (1)	1				
Watkins 7, 43		Tanser 42					
Ramirez 9, 71		Att: 8,002					
HIBERNIAN (1)	1	MOTHERWELL (0)	1				
Nisbet 33		Att: 15,266					
RANGERS (1)	3	DUNDEE (0)	0				
Arlo 36		Att: 49,628					
Sweeney 55 (og)							
Morelos 70							
ST JOHNSTONE	P	ROSS CNTY	P				
Postponed - due to a waterlogged pitch.							

CINCH CHAMPIONSHIP	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
ABERROATH (0)	0	RAITH (0)	0				
Att: 1,536							
HAMILTON (0)	1	DUNFERMLINE (0)	0				
Moyo 11 (pen)		Att: 1,175					
MORTON (1)	2	AYR (0)	2				
Bradley 73		Att: 1,335					
ON OF STH (0)	0	PARTICK (0)	0				
Att: 1,308							
Played Friday							
INVERNESS (0)	1	KILMARNOCK (0)	0				
Welsh 69		Att: 2,296					

CINCH LEAGUE ONE - Clyde 2 Peterhead 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cove Rangers 2 Dumbarton 0, East Fife 1 Alloa 1, Queen's Park 6 Falkirk 0							
Queen's Park 16.9	4	3	11	17	31		
Raith 16.8	6	2	26	16	30		
Kilmarnock 16.9	2	5	20	10	29		
Partick 16.8	4	4	29	14	28		
Aberroath 16.7	7	2	26	13	28		
Hamilton 16.4	4	8	14	29	16		
Ayr 16.3	5	8	15	28	14		
Morton 16.2	7	7	14	22	13		
Dunfermline 16.2	7	7	15	23	13		
Queen of Sts 16.3	4	9	13	23	13		

CINCH LEAGUE TWO - Albion 2 Forfar 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cowdenbeath 1 Stirling 0, Stenhousemuir 1 Stranraer 4, Played Friday - Edinburgh City 0 Annan Athletic 1							
Queen's Park 16.9	4	3	11	17	31		
Raith 16.8	6	2	26	16	30		
Kilmarnock 16.9	2	5	20	10	29		
Partick 16.8	4	4	29	14	28		
Aberroath 16.7	7	2	26	13	28		
Hamilton 16.4	4	8	14	29	16		
Ayr 16.3	5	8	15	28	14		
Morton 16.2	7	7	14	22	13		
Dunfermline 16.2	7	7	15	23	13		
Queen of Sts 16.3	4	9	13	23	13		

ARIBO'S A BIT TASTY

By FRANKIE CHRISTOU

JOE ARIBO stole the show as Rangers moved seven points clear of Celtic at the top of the Scottish Premiership.

The former Charlton midfielder netted the first-half opener before his dangerous cross forced Ryan Sweeney to slide the ball into his own net for the second.

Colombia striker Alfredo Morelos wrapped up all three points by poking home the third with just 20 minutes remaining.

It means new boss Giovanni van Bronckhorst has won four consecutive games ahead of their Europa League clash against Lyon on Thursday.

Elsewhere, Marley Watkins and Christian Ramirez both bagged braces as ABERDEEN thrashed ST MIRREN 4-1.

The pair netted in the opening nine minutes then Watkins put them three ahead just before the break. Ramirez rounded off the win before Scott Tanser scored a consolation.

MOTHERWELL striker Tony Watt continued his fine form by salvaging a point against HIBS.

Watt cancelled out Kevin Nisbet's first-half volley with a smart finish on the hour mark.

CELTIC will travel to take on DUNDEE UNITED this afternoon.



WELL DON... Ramirez double

STONE ME, IT'S BYRON

BYRON WEBSTER netted a last-gasp winner to fire BROMLEY past ten-man WEALDSTONE.

George Alexander and Marcus Sablier scored after Josh Umerah's early opener for Wealdstone. Keeper George Wickens saw red before Jack Cook

headed in an equaliser. But Webster's close-range 90th-minute finish fired Bromley into third.

WREXHAM left it late to beat struggling DOVER. Despite dominating, the Welsh side had to wait until Jordan Davies' 84th-minute winner.

NON-LEAGUE

VANARAMA NATIONAL

Aldershot 2 Altrincham 2, Barnet 3 Maidenhead Utd 0, Bromley 3 Wealdstone 2, Dag & Red 3 Grimsby 2, Dover 0 Wrexham 1, Solihull Moors 2 Woking 0, Weymouth 1, Torquay 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chesterfield	17	10	6	1	35	15	36
Boreham Wood	17	10	5	2	26	13	35
Bromley	18	10	4	4	34	22	34
Wrexham	19	9	6	4	34	20	33
FC Halifax	17	10	5	4	28	16	33
Grimsby	18	10	6	5	31	20	32
Notts County	18	9	5	4	29	21	32
Solihull Moors	18	9	5	4	24	20	32
Stockport City	17	9	5	28	20	30	30
Dag & Red	19	9	28	57	26	29	29
Yeovil	17	8	4	5	19	15	28
Altrincham	18	7	4	7	33	28	25
Barnet	18	7	4	7	24	50	25
Woking	18	0	10	50	28	24	24
Eastleigh	16	7	3	6	21	21	24
Dover	18	5	9	26	31	21	21
Wealdstone	18	5	6	7	19	28	21
Aldershot	18	5	21	20	32	17	21
Weymouth	18	4	3	11	21	37	15
Southend	16	2	10	13	25	14	14
Maldenhead	16	4	2	10	18	33	14
King's Lynn	17	2	13	15	37	8	8
Dover	18	0	4	14	14	61	6

(Dover deducted 12 points for breaching league regulations)

VANARAMA NORTH

AFC Fylde 4 Blyth Spartans 1, Bradford P A 0 Brackley 3, Chester FC 2 Leamington 1, Curzon Ashton 1 Alfreton Town 2, Gloucester 2 Spennymoor Town 0, Guiseley 0 York 1, Kettering 2 Boston Utd 3, Southport 2 Hereford FC 0	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AFC Fylde	16	11	3	2	32	15	36
Brackley	15	10	4	1	21	8	34
Chorley	16	8	5	3	28	19	29
Boston Utd	16	9	1	6	25	25	28
Kidderminster	16	8	3	5	24	17	27
Gateshead	12	8	2	24	25	26	26
Alfreton	16	7	2	7	27	24	23
Curzon Ashton	16	4	4	9	14	22	16
York	1	7	22	20	44	12	12
Leamington	16	6	4	6	19	17	22
Hereford	16	6	4	6	16	17	22
Southport	16	4	5	25	19	20	17
Spennymoor	16	5	8	22	26	20	16
Darlington	16	5	4	7	28	19	16
Chorley	16	5	4	7	26	17	16
Kettering	16	5	3	8	19	20	16
Farsley Celtic	15	4	7	12	26	16	16
Gloucester	16	3	4	9	19	32	13
Bradford P A	16	4	8	14	28	13	12
Guiseley	14	3	8	11	12	12	12
Blyth Spartans	16	3	10	11	32	12	9
AFC Telford	14	2	3	9	13	26	9

Worthing	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Enfield	17	11	2	4	37	19	35
Folkestone	17	9	6	3	35	23	33
Chester	18	9	5	4	30	17	32
Lewes	19	9	4	6	45	31	31
Bishop's Stortford	18	7	3	3	32	21	29
Kingstonian	18	9	2	5	28	23	29
Carlisle Town	18	7	6	3	34	27	27
Bognor Regis	17	6	8	3	29	22	26
Hornchurch	18	8	2	6	26	21	26
Southam	18	7	4	7	20	25	25
Margate	17	7	4	6	27	27	25
Horsham	17	7	3	7	25	19	24
Potters Bar	16	7	3	6	30	25	24
Merstham	19	7	2	10	28	32	23
Haringey Boro	18	4	7	7	27	31	19
Bowers & P	16	5	4	7	19	25	19
Wingate & F	16	4	5	7	19	25	17
East Thurrock	18	3	10	24	15	41	15
Brighton & Hove	18	2	12	17	47	14	14
Cray W	16	3	10	18	35	12	12
Leatherhead	19	2	3	14	18	50	9

THE PITCHING IN SOUTHERN PREMIER SOUTH

Beaconsfield Town 0 Yate 4, Chesham Utd 3 Truro City 1, Dorchester 3 Harrow Borough 1, Farnborough 3 Merton 2, Haringey Boro 1 Weston-S-Mare 2, Hayes & Yeading Utd 1 Met Police 2, Poole 6 Kings Langley 2, Swindon Supermarine 2 Salisbury FC 1, Tiverton 1 Gosport Borough 2, Watton Casuals 1 Taunton 1, Wimborne 1 Hendon 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Farnborough	19	15	1	3	44	25	46
Met Police	18	12	2	4	28	11	38
Gosport Boro	20	11	3	6	34	23	36
Hayes & Yeading	19	11	2	2	38	15	35
Chesham Utd	21	9	3	8	30	30	30
Yate	18	9	5	4	33	30	32
Poole	21	9	5	7	37	34	32
Weston-S-Mare	18	10	1	7	25	18	31
Harrow Boro	19	10	2	8	29	25	30
Taunton	18	8	5	5	31	21	29
Hendon	21	9	2	10	34	33	29
Salisbury FC	19	8	4	7	30	31	28
Truro City	17	8	3	6	25	27	27
Watton Casuals	20	7	8	5	27	36	26
Swindon Super	21	6	7	8	28	35	25
Tiverton	18	6	5	7	27	24	23
Dorchester	22	7	1	14	24	31	22
Beaconsfield	22	6	4	12	25	42	22
Hartley Wintney	19	6	4	10	26	16	21
Kings Langley	22	5	3	12	27	37	14
Merthyr	20	2	5	13	22	41	11
Wimborne	18	1	4	13	18	7	7

SOUTHERN PREMIER CENTRAL

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FRANTASY

Kirby up for new dream in final

By SANDRA BROBBEY

FRAN KIRBY says scoring at Wembley felt like a 'dream' — as Chelsea beat Arsenal to clinch the 2018 FA Cup.

And the England ace is relishing the chance to repeat that feat when the sides face off at the stadium later today, live on BBC1.

The two WSL title-chasers will battle out in this year's delayed FA Cup Final, with the game pushed back to December due to the Covid pandemic.

And Chelsea will be hoping for a rerun of their 3-1 Cup win in 2018, with Kirby netting their third goal.

The Blues ace, 28, said: "Wembley is a stadium you dream about scoring in when you're growing up.

"To be able to do it is a dream come true. I really enjoyed that final back in 2018.

"I recall that moment they scored in the second half and there was a bit of pressure with me thinking are they going to come back and get another one.

"But I was really pleased to score there, it was an honour."

Scoring for the Blues has not been too much of an issue for Kirby of late.

The playmaker passed the 100-goal mark for the WSL champions in November.

Her brace in 5-0 demolition of Birmingham saw her become Chelsea



Women's all-time top scorer.

And it's an achievement that the Reading-born forward is particularly proud of following her battles with injuries and the heart condition pericarditis.

Kirby said: "I think a lot of my time at this club has been cut short because of injury and illness.

"So for me to be able to score 100 goals is really, really special.

"I think from everyone's reaction because you can see how happy people were for me.

"I was super proud to do it."

A win for Chelsea would see them achieve a delayed treble following their WSL and League Cup triumphs earlier this year.

But a victory for their London rivals Arsenal would see them pick up their 15th FA Cup trophy.

It would also be a first under new manager Jonas Eidevall.

The club currently holds the record for the highest number of trophy wins in this competition.

The Swede, 38, spoke about his fear of black cats when asked, ahead of the final, if he had any superstitions.

Eidevall joked: "I do have some superstitions. I don't like letting black cats cross my way... ever.

"If Emma Hayes sees us arrive, she will probably buy a thousand cats with all the money they have at Chelsea."

BLUE HEAVEN...
Kirby fires in third in 2018 FA Cup Final against Arsenal and (inset) with trophy

LLOYD'S CUP OF CHEER

LESLEY LLOYD refused to allow sexist jibes to derail her pursuit of playing football for Southampton Ladies.

And the former Saints skipper says it is a 'dream' to see how far the Women's FA Cup has come since she won the first trophy 50 years ago.

Lloyd, 74, was 24 when Saints made history in May 1971 by becoming the first team to win the Cup following a 4-1 win over Stewarston Thistle.

That year the FA lifted a ban on women playing football that had stood

By SANDRA BROBBEY

for 50 years when officials deemed the game as 'quite unsuitable for females'.

Lloyd said: "We obviously had this scenario with a lot of men saying, 'well ladies shouldn't be playing football, etc, etc, etc' and that's how it went on.

"But then we used to have some come up and watch us and, in the end, we had more men than ladies watching."

Today Lloyd will be among a host of Cup final captains attending the delayed

final between Arsenal and Chelsea — and it will be quite a culture shock.

A record crowd of 47,000 is expected at Wembley — a stark contrast to the 1,500 to 2,000 for the 1971 final at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

She said: "When I look at the FA Cup now and girls playing at Wembley, I think, 'Gosh, I wish I was 50 years younger'.

"We couldn't have dreamt of the way it is now, the way ladies' football has taken off. It really does seem like the beautiful game for ladies."

FIRST LADIES... Lloyd (third from right) with the 1971 Cup-winning side



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listings
for top
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THE
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ON SUNDAY

8-PAGE
SPECIAL

Scarlett Moffatt's

TV
picks

CHRISTMAS is nearly upon us and families will soon be getting together on the sofa to enjoy some festive telly.

As well as traditional Christmas favourites such as the Queen's Speech and The Snowman, viewers can look forward to specials from Strictly Come Dancing, The Masked Singer and Call The Midwife.

Great children's movies to look out for include Mary Poppins Returns, Shaun The Sheep and Paddington.

Soap fans will be poised for explosive festive drama in Albert Square and Coronation Street. And

kids will be in for another treat with the BBC animation of Julia Donaldson's Superworm at 2.30pm on Christmas Day.

Here, TV favourite Scarlett Moffatt gives her pick of the best the box has to offer over the festive season - and her top tips for telly in 2022.

Scarlett said: "This year I can't wait to sit down on the sofa with my friends and family - a glass of fizz in hand - for some great Christmas TV."

"Here are some of the shows I can't wait to tune in to over the holidays - and a few of my top tips for what to look out for in 2022."



The Repair Shop
7pm BBC One, Xmas Eve



Morecambe & Wise
7pm BBC Two, Xmas Day



Gogglebox
9.15pm C4, Xmas Day



The Snowman
5pm C4, Xmas Eve

"This year I can't wait to sit down on the sofa with my friends and family - a glass of fizz in hand - for some great Xmas telly"



Christmas Eve

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE, Channel 4, 2pm

THIS is my favourite Christmas film of all-time and it is a tradition to watch this every Christmas Eve in the Moffatt household with a glass of Baileys – a tradition I have passed on to my boyfriend Scott, who I live with.

You feel all the emotions watching this. At the start, sorrow for George Bailey, who feels like his problems outweigh the reasons to go on living until his guardian angel, Clarence, helps him see the positive impact he's had on everyone around him.

Then every bone in your body fills with love and hope. I can't wait to shed a few tears when I hear that famous line: "Every time a bell rings, an angel gets his wings."

TIPPING POINT: LUCKY STARS CHRISTMAS SPECIAL, ITV, 3.55pm

I COULD be biased, as I have filmed one of the Tipping Point Christmas specials myself, but it's a great show for all the family. Me, my boyfriend, little sister, Mam and Dad all end up shouting out loud at the TV with our answers.

Plus, who doesn't love a Christmas special? The decorations, the jingle they put in the theme tune, those Christmas-related questions.

Even if you don't like quizzes, tune in to see Ben Shepherd in a Christmas jumper.

CHRISTMAS UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE BBC Two, 7.30pm

A SHOW I often had to watch on Gogglebox and now a guilty pleasure. I've never felt more intelligent in my life than getting at least one question right watching University Challenge.

I have a 2:1 degree but getting a question right on this means more to me. And it doesn't matter how many times I watch it, I will always think, just for a split second, the teams are above and below each other, not next to each other. I can't wait to test my brain cells.

THE VICAR OF DIBLEY, BBC One, 10.30pm

PURE, quintessential British comedy at its finest. I'm a Nineties baby and despite seeing every episode 100 times, I still laugh out loud.

My jaw aches from smiling so much, whether it's at how joyously Dawn French portrays the vicar or all the wonderful sarcasm.

There's always a few dirty innuendoes thrown in for good measure which, as I get older, I actually understand.

However, I think everyone can agree we all looked forward most to the end scene where the vicar would come out with a joke (usually about a nun) as we anticipated if Alice Tinker was finally going to get the punchline.

The Vicar Of Dibley

10.30pm
BBC One



It's A Wonderful Life

2pm Channel 4



University Challenge

7.30pm BBC Two



Spitting Image

10pm ITV

BBC
one

- 3.00 (FILM PREMIERE) Abominable** Animated adventure. (2019) (S,HD)
- 4.30 (FILM PREMIERE) Dolittle** Fantasy with Robert Downey Jr. (2020) (S,HD)
- 6.00 (NEW) Shaun The Sheep: The Flight Before Christmas** A farmhouse raid leads to Timmy going missing. (S,HD)
- 6.30 BBC News At Six** (S,HD)
- 6.55 BBC Regional News** (S)
- 7.00 The Repair Shop At Christmas** The experts restore four beloved festive treasures – a mechanical doll, a traditional German decoration, an ageing harmonium and a train set all the way from Kenya. (S,HD)
- 8.00 EastEnders** Whitney is in shock as she realises the truth about Chantelle's death. (S,HD)
- 8.30 (NEW) Top Gear: Driving Home For Christmas** Chris, Paddy and Freddie Flintoff choose cars for each other, before setting off on a yuletide trek across Britain. (S,HD)
- 9.30 (NEW) I Can See Your Voice Christmas Special** Paddy McGuinness hosts the mystery singing game show. (S,HD)
- 10.30 The Vicar Of Dibley** Geraldine attends three slap-up Christmas lunches. (R,S)
- 11.15 BBC News** (S,HD)
- 11.45 Midnight Mass From St Chad's Cathedral** (S,HD)

BBC
TWO

- 3.20 (FILM) North By Northwest** Thriller with Cary Grant. (1959) (S,HD)
- 5.35 Dad's Army** (R,S,HD)
- 6.15 Carols From King's** (S,HD)
- 7.30 Christmas University Challenge** (S,HD)
- 8.00 Gardeners' World Winter Specials** Monty Don creates a winter interest container filled with seasonal favourites, and Joe Lycett talks to Carol Klein about his new-found love of gardening. (S,HD)
- 9.00 Vienna Blood Darkness Rising** (3/3) Oskar investigates the murder of a fanatical monk, and prime suspect is Isaak Korngold, who had reprimanded the monk for anti-Semitic rhetoric. (S,HD)
- 10.30 (NEW) A Ghost Story For Christmas: The Mezzotint** The new engraving Dr Williams orders for the university collection reveals a disturbing story. (S,HD)
- 11.00 (FILM) Amazing Grace** Concert recording of Aretha Franklin's 1972 gospel album, a film that remained unreleased at the time and only saw the light of day in 2018, after the singer's death. (2018) (S,HD)
- 12.30 Carole King And Friends At Christmas** (R,S,HD)
- 1.30 The Carpenters At The BBC** (R,S,HD)

itv

- 3.25 Shrek The Halls** (R,S,HD)
- 3.55 Tipping Point: Lucky Stars Christmas Special** (S,HD)
- 4.55 ITV Evening News** (S,HD)
- 5.15 Regional News** (S,HD)
- 5.30 The Chase Celebrity Christmas Special** (S,HD)
- 6.30 Gino's Italian Family Adventure: A Festive Feast** (S,HD)
- 7.00 Emmerdale** Bernice gives Will an ultimatum. Al is pressured by Gavin. (S,HD)
- 7.30 (NEW) Royal Carols: Together At Christmas** The Duchess Of Cambridge hosts from Westminster Abbey. (S,HD)
- 8.30 Coronation Street** Nina declines a chance to spend Christmas with the Alahans. (S,HD)
- 9.00 (NEW) Bradley & Barney: Breaking Dad At Christmas** The Walshes head to Iceland for an epic adventure, with Barney taking his dad well out of his comfort zone. (S,HD)
- 10.00 (NEW) Spitting Image: Christmas Special** Festive edition with latex lookalikes including Brad Pitt. (S,HD)
- 10.30 (NEW) Christmas Comedy Club With Lost Voice Guy** The BGT winner hosts a festive special with Bill Bailey. (S,HD)
- 11.30 ITV News** (S,HD)
- 11.45 (NEW) Christmas Carols On ITV** Tony Hadley hosts (S,HD)

4

- 2.00 (FILM) It's A Wonderful Life** Fantasy drama starring James Stewart. (1946) (S,HD)
- 4.40 C4 News** (S,HD)
- 5.00 The Snowman** (R,S)
- 5.35 The Snowman And The Snowdog** (R,S,HD)
- 6.00 (FILM) Home Alone** Comedy classic starring Macaulay Culkin (1990) (S,HD)
- 8.00 (NEW) The Greatest Snowman** Sue Perkins follows Johnny Vegas, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, Dani Dyer, Liam Charles and Cherry Healey as they compete in a snowman-building competition. (S,HD)
- 9.30 (NEW) 8 Out Of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special** Jon Richardson and Sarah Milligan take on Lee Mack and Jason Manford, joined by guests Nick Mohammed and Joe Wilkinson for a fun festive edition. (S,HD)
- 10.30 The Last Leg Christmas Eve Special** A merriment-packed Christmas episode with guests Joanna Lumley and Big Zuu. (S,HD)
- 11.30 Friday Night Dinner: 10 Years And A Lovely Bit Of Squirrel** A celebration of sitcom Friday Night Dinner. (R,S,HD)
- 1.00 Friday Night Dinner** (R,S,HD)
- 2.20 The Secret World Of Toys At Christmas** (R,S,HD)

5

- 4.20 (FILM) Deck The Halls** Two neighbours feud over who has the best Christmas lights and end up resorting to desperate measures to outdo each other. Comedy starring Danny DeVito and Matthew Broderick. (2006) (S,HD)
- 6.10 (NEW) Ball & Boe: Back Together At Christmas** In the final show of a UK tour, Michael Ball and Alfie Boe perform much-loved songs at the O2 Arena. (S,HD)
- 8.00 (NEW) World's Most Expensive Christmas Cruise** Cameras explore the Seven Seas Splendor as it sets sail on its maiden Yuletide voyage. Temperatures are soaring as the six-star floating hotel visits the Caribbean, and the pressure on the staff on board is higher than ever. (S,HD)
- 9.00 All Creatures Great And Small Christmas Special** (7/7) James and Helen question their future together in the run-up to Christmas Day, while things look grave for one of Darowby's most beloved animals. (S,HD)
- 10.10 (NEW) 1979: Britain's Biggest 70s Hits** (10/10) A look at the biggest-selling singles of the year. (R,S)
- 11.35 70s Greatest Electro Pop** The best synth pop artists. (S,HD)

**CHRISTMAS MORNING FROM
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL**

BBC One, 10am

DO you tear into the presents first thing, like me? If so, it's time to put this service on with a glass of bubbly.

Listening to the readings always reminds me of what Christmas is truly all about.

And as I'm popping all the wrapping paper in the bin, with fizz in hand, I get that festive feeling.

There's something about having your whole house filled with the sound of carols that makes me feel fuzzy inside.

It's always nice to put the subtitles on and try to join in with a few of the hymns.

THE QUEEN'S CHRISTMAS BROADCAST

BBC One, 3pm

A TRADITION for the majority of the UK and I am no exception to that.

It doesn't matter whether I am halfway through my Christmas dinner or about to pull a cracker, we all stop when the Queen's Speech starts. It will be wonderful to see what words of wisdom she has for us this year, especially after the past couple of years that everybody has had.

It always feels like you're watching a little bit of history take place, each year.

The first Christmas broadcast was by George V in 1932 and I think it's wonderful it's still happening today.

THE SNOWMAN, Channel 4, 3.55pm

THE Snowman is my childhood. Watching this always takes me back to the first time I ever saw it, when I was seven.

I mean, who didn't build a snowman and secretly hope he would come to life and take you on a magical journey to meet Santa? Can't wait to watch this while eating my own body weight in chocolates!

Luckily, a couple of glasses of fizz will have passed my lips by this time, so I'll be able to hit those high notes during Walking In The Air.

THE MASKED SINGALONG, ITV, 6pm

TO me, Christmas is all about family, friends and fun. It's the one day of the year when you can be as silly as you want.

So The Masked Singalong is the perfect way to get all the family up and involved in a sing-song.

I'm gonna let the mulled wine flow and the roasties settle while I blast out a tune.

It's a laugh shouting at the TV trying to guess who the singer is – especially with my nanny, who shouts out the names of people who would be in their nineties.

MARY POPPINS RETURNS, BBC One, 3.10pm

WHO doesn't have a soft spot for Mary Poppins at Christmas? The original is a real favourite of mine so I can't wait to see this version starring Emily Blunt, Julie Walters, Colin Firth and Meryl Streep.

The latest outing of PL Travers' magical nanny was a box-office smash when it was released in 2018. So it should make practically perfect Christmas viewing.

STRICTLY COME DANCING**CHRISTMAS SPECIAL**, BBC One, 5.10pm

DANCING always makes me happy, whether I'm doing it or watching it, so Strictly is a must-see for me.

It's glitzy, it's glamorous and it's real feel-good TV because everyone at home is cheering on the celebs taking part.

The line-up for this year's special looks promising – I have high hopes for Anne-Marie, and Fred Sirieix will be a great entertainer. Bring on the sequins!

THE GREAT CHRISTMAS BAKE OFF

Channel 4, 8pm

WHAT better accompaniment could there be for your Christmas pudding than a Bake Off festive special? This year's Christmas episode will see the cast members of C4 hit It's A Sin take on the challenges.

When I took part in the show for Stand Up To Cancer last year, I had a secret tactic: To add as much booze to my creations as possible. Sadly, I still missed out on the Star Baker apron.

But I'm looking forward to seeing how Ollie Alexander and his pals get on.

GOGGLEBOX 2021, Channel 4, 9.15pm

THIS festive special will revisit the best bits of Gogglebox 2021, and I can't wait to see which moments of TV gold they have singled out. Personally, Jenny having her moustache waxed by Lee on the show had me in stitches.

I have Gogglebox to thank for giving me the opportunity to work in TV and I am so grateful to the team behind the scenes.

It's a brilliant show and I love watching it to this day because I laugh so much at all the hilarious characters, as well as enjoying a bit of nostalgia.

**The Larkins
At Christmas**

9pm ITV

**Mary Poppins
Returns**

3.10pm BBC One

**The Masked
Singalong**

6pm ITV



Christ

The Queen

3pm BBC One

**Home A**

5.15pm Char

DON'T MISS YOUR 120-PAGE FESTIVE



Britain's Favourite Party Songs
9pm C5

Call The Midwife
8pm BBC One



Mrs Brown's Boys
10.20pm BBC One



- 3.00 (NEW) **The Queen's Christmas Broadcast** (S,HD)
- 3.10 (FILM PREMIERE) **Mary Poppins Returns** Musical fantasy starring Emily Blunt. (2018) (S,HD)
- 5.10 (NEW) **Strictly Come Dancing Christmas Special** With Jay Blades, Fred Sirieix, and Anne-Marie (S,HD)
- 6.25 **Michael McIntyre's Christmas Wheel** Danny Dyer, Zoe Ball and David Walliams compete for charity. (S,HD)
- 7.25 **Blankety Blank Christmas Special** (S,HD)
- 8.00 (NEW SERIES) **Call The Midwife** Lucille and Cyril prepare for their winter wedding (S,HD)
- 9.35 **EastEnders** As the day of the double wedding dawns, Whitney is ready to expose Gray. Meanwhile, Sharon shows up at the Slaters for Christmas lunch. (S,HD)
- 10.20 (NEW) **Mrs Brown's Boys Christmas Special: Mammy's Mechanical Merriment** (1/2) Agnes is recruited to the choir – but ordered not to sing. (S,HD)
- 10.55 **The Vicar Of Dibley: The Handsome Stranger** (R,S,HD)
- 11.50 **BBC News** (S,HD)
- 12.00 (NEW) **On Christmas Night** (HD)
- 12.05 (FILM) **Last Christmas** (2019) (S,HD)



- 3.10 **The Two Ronnies Christmas Sketchbook** (R,S,HD)
- 3.40 **The Two Ronnies: The Studio Recordings** (R,S,HD)
- 4.10 (NEW) **Quentin Blake: The Drawing Of My Life** The artist tells the story of his creative life in his own words and pictures. (S,HD)
- 5.10 **Sign Zone: The Queen's Christmas Broadcast** (R,S,SL,HD)
- 5.20 (FILM) **The Adventures Of Robin Hood** Swashbuckling adventure with Errol Flynn and Olivia De Havilland. (1938) (S)
- 7.00 **The Morecambe & Wise Christmas Show 1971** Another chance to see the Seventies comedy classic (R,S,HD)
- 7.45 **The Morecambe & Wise Show 1970: The Lost Tape A** complete episode of the comedy duo's show that had been considered missing for more than 50 years. (R,S,HD)
- 8.35 (NEW) **A Musical Family Christmas With The Kanneh-Masons** A festive treat with the musical siblings, featuring performances of their favourite festive music (S,HD)
- 9.35 **Pavarotti** Documentary. (S,HD)
- 11.30 **Pavarotti In Hyde Park** Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti's 1991 free concert to celebrate his 30 years in opera. (R,S,HD)

mas Day



Chitty Chitty Bang Bang
3.10pm C5



- 3.10 (FILM) **Santa Claus: The Movie** Fantasy adventure with Dudley Moore. (1985) (S,HD)
- 5.15 **ITV News** (S,HD)
- 5.30 (NEW) **Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs At Christmas** The holiday season arrives at Battersea, but not everyone feels festive. (S,HD)
- 6.00 (NEW) **The Masked Singalong** Joel Dommett hosts a one-off special of the surreal guessing game. (S,HD)
- 7.00 **Emmerdale** As the villagers enjoy Christmas Day, Al gets a threatening message and Manpreet searches for information. (S,HD)
- 8.00 **Coronation Street** The Barlow-Platt family festivities prove to be the ultimate test of peace and goodwill, and Fiz delights Tyrone by cancelling her hol and bringing the girls home. (S,HD)
- 9.00 (NEW) **The Larkins At Christmas** In this festive special, the Larkins are gearing up for Christmas, and in the village all the talk is of the pantomime and a spate of burglaries. (S,HD)
- 10.25 **ITV News** (S,HD)
- 10.40 (FILM) **Love Actually** Interlinked tales of the search for love. Romantic comedy with Hugh Grant and Martine McCutcheon (2003) (S,HD)



- 3.55 **The Snowman** Animated adventure, based on Raymond Briggs' classic tale. (R,S)
- 4.30 **The Snowman And The Snowdog** Animated sequel to timeless festive classic The Snowman. (R,S,HD)
- 5.00 (NEW) **The Alternative Christmas Message**
- 5.05 **C4 News** (S,HD)
- 5.15 (FILM) **Home Alone 2: Lost In New York** A young boy ends up stranded in the Big Apple. Comedy sequel starring Macaulay Culkin. (1992) (S,HD)
- 7.30 (NEW) **Terry Pratchett's The Abominable Snow Baby** Animation about a grandmother who adopts a 14ft monster at Christmas. Narrated by David Harewood, with the voice of Julie Walters. (S,HD)
- 8.00 (NEW) **The Great Christmas Bake Off** Paul Hollywood, Prue Leith, Matt Lucas and Noel Fielding invite the stars from the award-winning hit drama It's A Sin to join them in the famous white tent (S,HD)
- 9.15 **Gogglebox 2021** Highlights of the past year's episodes, featuring appearances by the Siddiquis, Giles and Mary and Jenny and Lee. (S,HD)
- 11.15 **First Dates At Christmas** Fred Sirieix and his team try to ensure Christmas 2021 is one to remember. (R,S,HD)



- 3.10 (FILM) **Chitty Chitty Bang Bang** An inventor finds an old car has magical powers, and a greedy tyrant will do anything to get hold of it. Children's musical adventure starring Dick Van Dyke, with a screenplay co-written by Roald Dahl (1968) (S,HD)
- 6.15 (NEW) **Britain's Greatest 80s Songs** A countdown of the nation's favourite Eighties chart-toppers, as voted for by the British public, with Queen, Duran Duran, Spandau Ballet, George Michael and Eurythmics all sure to feature. (S,HD)
- 9.00 (NEW) **Britain's Favourite Party Songs** A celebration of the best-loved dance craze records from across the past 50 years, featuring the likes of the Macarena, Vogue and Agadoo. This programme tells the stories of each song and its floor-filling dance routine (S,HD)
- 11.05 **Kylie: 30 Years Of Hits** Profile of the Australian singer and actress whose debut single I Should Be So Lucky launched an enduring pop career. (R,S,HD)
- 12.30 **Wonderful World Of Chocolate** Documentary offering a glimpse inside the confectionery world. (R,S,HD)

Home 2
Channel 4

Boxing Day



SHAUN THE SHEEP MOVIE

BBC One, 10.10am

ON Boxing Day, for me it's all about eating the leftovers and relaxing, so I can't wait to start my day off with a good laugh watching Shaun The Sheep.

This is one of those movies where you laugh out loud, no matter how old you are. I mean, you know it's a good one when it's made by the same people who created Wallace And Gromit, Aardman Animations.

To be fair, we've all been in Shaun's shoes. The poor lad is just a bit bored and wants a day off and will attempt anything to make that happen.

PAUL O'GRADY: FOR THE LOVE OF DOGS

ITV, 3.30pm

I AM a massive animal lover and me and my Chihuahua Bonnie will be snuggled up watching Paul while she gnaws on a little dog treat.

This show is always an array of emotions – a real rollercoaster.

Sometimes I'm crying with happiness at the animals at Battersea Dogs and Cats Home. Other times, I'm sobbing at the little four-legged friends in need.

Either way, a whole show about pups is my cup of tea on Boxing Day.

SISTER ACT

Channel 5, 5.10pm

OH, happy days – I love a good Whoopi Goldberg musical. This is one of my favourites of all-time.

It starts with a lounge singer trying to escape her boyfriend. It has everything I could ever want in a movie: Mobsters, choirs, nuns and Maggie Smith. Can't wait to belt some of the songs out while eating my leftover-turkey sandwiches.

THE BIG FAT QUIZ OF THE YEAR 2021

Channel 4, 9pm

JIMMY CARR has now become a Christmas tradition by ending up being the last person on my TV on Boxing Day. I love a quiz, especially one that makes my ribs hurt from laughing so much. He always has amazing guests and this year he has some of my favourites – Sarah Millican, James Acaster, Jonathan Ross, Judi Love and Guz Khan.

It's always a lovely way to round up the year – and what a year 2021 has been.



A Very British Scandal

9pm BBC One



For The Love Of Dogs

3.30pm ITV



Sister Act

5.10pm C5



- 2.20 (FILM) Beauty And The Beast** Musical fairy tale with Emma Watson and Dan Stevens. (2017) (S,HD)
- 4.20 (FILM) Paddington** Family comedy with Hugh Bonneville. (2014) (S,HD)
- 5.50 (NEW SERIES) Around The World In 80 Days** Adaptation of Jules Verne's late 1800s-set adventure, starring David Tennant as explorer Phileas Fogg who takes up the challenge of circumnavigating the globe in 80 days. (S,HD)
- 7.30 (NEW) Death In Paradise** Feature-length festive special. A shipping magnate is found dead at a party. Things get stranger when a man in London receives a Christmas card connected to the victim's death. Starring Danny John-Jules, Ralf Little and Josephine Jobert. (S,HD)
- 9.00 (NEW SERIES) A Very British Scandal (1/3)** Drama focusing on the 1963 divorce of the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, notorious for scandalous claims and photographs. With Claire Foy and Paul Bettany. (S,HD)
- 10.00 EastEnders** Janine tries to get Mick to herself by telling Zack Nancy still likes him. (S,HD)
- 10.25 BBC News** (S,HD)
- 10.40 Match Of The Day** Gary Lineker presents action from the big Boxing Day fixtures.



- 2.20 (FILM) Some Like It Hot** Vintage comedy with Jack Lemmon, Tony Curtis and Marilyn Monroe. (1959) (S)
- 4.20 Final Score** This afternoon's football results. (S,HD)
- 5.20 The Two Ronnies At Christmas** The duo's festive special from 1987 with Charlton Heston (R,S,HD)
- 6.10 The Perfect Morecambe & Wise Christmas Special** A selection of classic clips from festive BBC shows (R,S,HD)
- 6.40 (NEW) Anything Goes: The Musical** A production of the classic musical comedy starring Sutton Foster. (S,HD)
- 9.00 (NEW) Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Christmas** Fishing Paul takes Bob on a steam train to the north of England to search for a prized salmon in the Eden and Tyne, and the pair are joined on the riverbank by Paul Gascoigne. (S,HD)
- 10.00 (NEW) Adele: The BBC Sessions** A trip back into the BBC's archives to look at how it all started for Adele, one of the 21st Century's biggest music stars. (S,HD)
- 11.00 Tina Live!** A 2009 concert by Tina Turner in Arnhem. (R,S,HD)
- 1.10 (FILM) Mr Holmes** Period mystery with Ian McKellen. (2015) (S,HD)



- 3.30 Paul O'Grady: For The Love Of Dogs** (R,S,HD)
- 4.00 ITV News** (S,HD)
- 4.15 (NEW) Saturday Night Takeaway Presents: Double Trouble** Another chance to see the comedy serial featured in the show. (S,HD)
- 5.00 The Chase Celebrity Christmas Special** With Kate Silverton, Ruthie Henshall, Iain Stirling and the Rev Richard Coles. (S,HD)
- 6.00 (NEW) Celebrity Catchphrase: Christmas Special** (S,HD)
- 7.00 Emmerdale** There is devastation in the village. Some are out for revenge. (S,HD)
- 7.30 Coronation Street** Abi refuses to let Kelly move on from the past. (S,HD)
- 8.00 (NEW) All Star Musicals At Christmas** Catherine Tyldesley, Fern Britton, Gyles Brandreth, Ben Miller and Anita Rani embark on a musical theatre masterclass. (S,HD)
- 9.30 (NEW) Billy Connolly: My Absolute Pleasure** The comic shares a personal selection of his best-loved stand-up routines from his tours. (S,HD)
- 10.40 ITV News** (S,HD)
- 10.50 Madame Tussauds: The Full Wax** A behind-the-scenes look at the world-famous tourist attraction. (R,S,HD)



- 4.00 (FILM) Crocodile Dundee** Comedy starring Paul Hogan. (1986) (S,HD)
- 5.50 C4 News** (S,HD)
- 6.00 (NEW) Britain's Scenic Railways At Christmas** A magical winter journey through some of the country's most festive railways. (S,HD)
- 7.00 Escape To The Chateau At Christmas** Dick, Angel, Arthur and Dorothy enjoy a magical adventure in this Christmas episode with a family celebration using a special part of France as inspiration. (R,S,HD)
- 8.00 (NEW) All I Want(ed) For Christmas** Celebrities get the chance to unwrap the presents they wanted as kids but never got, and discover if they are as exciting as they imagined. Narrated by Stephen Fry. (S,HD)
- 9.00 (NEW) The Big Fat Quiz Of The Year 2021** The annual year-end quiz hosted by Jimmy Carr. Guests including Sarah Millican, James Acaster, Jonathan Ross and Judi Love look back on the strange events of 2021. (S,HD)
- 11.00 Gogglebox 2021** Highlights of the past year's episodes, featuring appearances by Giles and Mary, Jenny and Lee, Ellie and Izzi, and Amira and Iqra. (R,S,HD)



- 3.00 (FILM) The Proposal** Romantic comedy starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds. (2009) (S,HD)
- 5.10 (FILM) Sister Act** A nightclub singer is sent to live in a convent for her own protection after agreeing to testify against a brutal gangster. Comedy starring Whoopi Goldberg, Harvey Keitel and Maggie Smith. (1992) (S,HD)
- 7.00 World's Strongest Man 2021** **Giants Live:** Britain's Strongest Man (5/11) James Richardson presents action from the final round of the Giants Live series in Glasgow. With analysis from Laurence Shahlaei and Terry Hollands (S,HD)
- 8.00 (FILM) Dirty Dancing** A dance instructor at a 1960s resort teaches a naive teenager about self-expression as they perform in an important show. Romantic drama with Patrick Swayze and Jennifer Grey. (1987) (S,HD)
- 10.00 (FILM) Road House** A kung fu expert is hired to keep the peace in a rowdy Missouri bar, but his actions incur the wrath of a local crime boss. Action thriller starring Patrick Swayze and Ben Gazzara. (1989) (S,HD)
- 12.15 Swayze: The Demons & The Dance** A profile. (R,S,HD)

New Year's Eve

IN FOR A PENNY

ITV, 11am

IF you're gonna start your last day of 2021 with anybody, make it a good one. I'm starting mine with Stephen Mulhern.

I absolutely love In For A Penny. I remember watching this live during Saturday Night Takeaway and, honestly, this show is like a warm hug.

My favourite is when members of the public can win the price of their petrol.

I mean, we've all tried to get our petrol on a rounded-up number – it's so intense. In the words of Stephen himself, it's "unbelievable".

COCO

BBC One, 2.40pm

COCO is such a wonderful movie. It's about a boy who pursues his love for singing in spite of his family's ban on music, which leads him to the land of the dead.

After this movie I always take a moment to remember those who I've lost and it reminds me to celebrate their lives. This is a lovely movie to watch at the end of 2021, especially after the recent years we have all had.

BRITAIN'S FAVOURITE PARTY SONGS

Channel 5, 9pm

LAST year, when me and Scott stayed in for New Year, we had our own mini-party in the house.

Get the sausage rolls warmed up – it's Britain's Favourite Party Songs time.

I shall be blasting this at a loud volume and dancing the Macarena.

The countdown will be on to say goodbye to 2021.

JOOLS' ANNUAL HOOTENANNY

BBC Two, 11.25pm

ME and Scott stayed up until silly o'clock in the morning watching Jools last year – and we had a hoot.

It has been a strange old year, 2021, hasn't it? So there is something quite reassuring about watching the familiar face of Jools welcoming us into 2022.

I can't wait for the countdown to midnight (obviously with a glass of fizz in hand).

It always makes me cry a little tear of happiness when I sing along to Auld Lang Syne, knowing that all over Britain others are celebrating in the same way.

Spectre

9pm ITV



In For A Penny

11am ITV



The Greatest Show

5.35pm BBC Two



- 2.40 (FILM) Coco** Heartwarming Animated fantasy. (2017) (S,HD)
- 4.15 Top Of The Pops New Year Special** 2021 highlights. (S,HD)
- 5.15 Superman & Lois** (S,HD)
- 6.00 BBC News At Six** (S,HD)
- 6.15 BBC Regional News** (S)
- 6.25 The Weakest Link** Hosted by Romesh Ranganathan. (S,HD)
- 7.10 EastEnders** Sharon questions Kat, who admits the truth. And Phil confronts Denise, who has a warning for him. Zack and Nancy take a trip trying to solve things before 2022 begins. (S,HD)
- 8.00 Question Of Sport** With five-time Paralympic gold swimmer Ellie Simmonds and snooker great Stephen Hendry. (S,HD)
- 8.30 MasterChef Champion Of Champions** Five accomplished amateur champs return to the kitchen. (S,HD)
- 9.30 Have I Got 2021 News For You** A look back. (S,HD)
- 10.00 BBC News At Ten** (S,HD)
- 10.20 The Graham Norton Show** With guests including Jessica Chastain, Claire Foy, Joe Lycett, Cush Jumbo and Peter Dinklage. (S,HD)
- 11.25 (NEW) The Big New Years Eve Party** Years & Years singer Olly Alexander throws a spectacular New Year's Eve party in the build-up to the midnight moment. (S,HD)



- 4.15 Nothing Like A Dame** Eileen Atkins, Judi Dench, Joan Plowright and Maggie Smith reminisce. (R,S,HD)
- 5.35 Musicals: The Greatest Show** Sheridan Smith introduces a celebration of the world of musical theatre from the London Palladium. (R,S,HD)
- 6.55 (FILM) Dad's Army** The ragtag soldiers of the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard try to apprehend three German aviators. Comedy based on the classic TV series starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (1971) (S,HD)
- 8.30 Christmas University Challenge Grand Final** The last two teams standing do battle for the series title. Jeremy Paxman hosts. (S,HD)
- 9.00 (FILM) The Aftermath** In post-war Hamburg, tensions arise for a British colonel and his wife after they move into a house with a German widow. Drama with Keira Knightley. (2019) (S,HD)
- 10.40 Live At The Apollo: Christmas Special** Festive stand-up comedy with Jason Manford, Maisie Adam and Nabil Abdul Rashid. (R,S,HD)
- 11.25 Jools' Annual Hootenanny** The pianist and his Rhythm & Blues Orchestra welcome in the New Year. (S,HD)



- 3.30 Tipping Point Quiz** fronted by Ben Shephard. (S,HD)
- 4.30 The Chase Quiz** show hosted by comedian Bradley Walsh. (S,HD)
- 5.30 Lingo** Three pairs take part in the quiz. (S,HD)
- 6.30 ITV Evening News** (S,HD)
- 6.40 Regional News** (S,HD)
- 7.00 Emmerdale** Nate is left broken. Priya struggles and Billy proposes. (S,HD)
- 8.00 Coronation Street** Emma is shocked to bump into Curtis at the hospital. Sarah and Adam's romantic New Year getaway turns sour and Jenny's age-gap misgivings threaten her relationship with Leo. (S,HD)
- 9.00 (FILM) Spectre** James Bond goes in search of the elusive mastermind behind a secret criminal network with links to 007's own past. Spy thriller starring Daniel Craig and Christoph Waltz. (2015) (S,HD)
- 11.45 ITV News** Including New Year bongs. (S,HD)
- 12.10 (FILM) Safe House** A CIA agent has to protect a captured fugitive from mercenaries but must also resist his prisoner's mind games. Thriller with Denzel Washington and Ryan Reynolds. (2012) (S,HD)
- 2.00 Britain's Favourite Dogs: Top 100** (R,S,HD)



- 2.15 Christmas At Chatsworth House** The aftermath of the pandemic finds the estate keen to win back some much-needed visitors. (R,S,HD)
- 3.15 (FILM) The Great Escape** Allied prisoners held in a supposedly escape-proof detention camp plan an ingenious mass breakout. WWII drama starring Steve McQueen, James Coburn and Richard Attenborough. (1963) (S,HD)
- 6.30 C4 News** (S,HD)
- 6.45 (FILM) Indiana Jones And The Temple Of Doom** The intrepid archaeologist travels to India, where he battles to retrieve sacred stones in the possession of an evil cult. Action adventure starring Harrison Ford. (1984) (S,HD)
- 9.00 The Last Leg Of The Year** Guests including Aisling Bea, Joe Wilkinson, Nish Kumar and Vick Hope join the regulars for a comic review of the past 12 months. (S,HD)
- 11.05 Celebrity Gogglebox 2021** Memorable moments of the year, featuring some of the country's favourite celebrities critiquing shows including The Masked Dancer. (R,S,HD)
- 12.05 (FILM) Four Weddings And A Funeral** Romantic comedy with Hugh Grant and Andie MacDowell. (1994) (S,HD)



- 2.45 (FILM) Hook** A grown-up Peter Pan returns to Neverland to rescue his children from Captain Hook. Steven Spielberg's fantasy adventure starring Robin Williams, Dustin Hoffman and Julia Roberts. (1991) (S,HD)
- 5.35 (FILM) Night At The Museum** The exhibits at a New York museum come to life and run riot after dark, causing mayhem for the night watchman. Fantasy comedy starring Ben Stiller, Dick Van Dyke and Robin Williams. (2006) (S,HD)
- 8.00 World's Strongest Man 2021: Heat 5** James Richardson and Eddie Hall presents action from the fifth and final heat of the event from Sacramento, California. (S,HD)
- 9.00 Britain's Favourite Party Songs** A celebration of the best-loved dance craze records from across the past 50 years, featuring the likes of the Macarena, Vogue and Agadoo. There's footage of non-professionals attempting the moves, including the rich and famous. (R,S,HD)
- 11.00 Britain's Greatest 80s Songs** A countdown of our favourite old songs, as voted for by the public. Featuring Queen, Spandau Ballet and Duran Duran. (R,S,HD)

My TV picks of 2022



ANT & DEC'S LIMITLESS WIN, ITV

OUR favourite Georgie duo will front a brand-new, high-stakes game show where the potential prize money literally has no limit.

I can't wait to watch the Georgie legends. They're like King Midas – everything they touch turns to gold, so this will be a real belter.

I don't think I've ever watched a show where the prize money has no limit.

I'm now really curious to know just how much somebody could walk away with.

STARSTRUCK, ITV

OLLY MURS hosts this modern-day Stars In Their Eyes, with members of the public becoming their favourite artist to perform for a celebrity panel of Sheridan Smith, Adam Lambert, Jason Manford and Beverley Knight.

Firstly, I love Olly Murs – I think he's fab, so I can't wait to see him host Starstruck.

And me and my friends have said for years: "I wish they'd bring back Stars In Their Eyes."

So it looks like our wish has come true.

I just hope they say those famous words: "Tonight, Olly Murs, I'm going to be..."

I'd love it if one of them came out as Olly – what an episode that would be!

PLANET EARTH III, BBC One

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH'S dulcet tones will once again complement all the visually stunning images we have come to expect from the epic nature series.

I always feel spoilt when I watch Sir David. In my head throughout the whole documentary I just repeat the phrase: "What a time to be alive."

I used to think 4K TV was a waste of time, but I tell you what, it was basically made for one show and one show only – Planet Earth.

DERRY GIRLS, Channel 4

I'VE never felt happier about a show coming back for a new run.

I loved the first two series of Derry Girls. They're all such relatable characters and it taught me a lot about the political conflict in Northern Ireland.

I'm buzzing that I don't have to keep watching old episodes on repeat, but I probably still will.

THE MASKED SINGER, ITV

I AM so excited for the next series of The Masked Singer – I love trying to work out who the celebrities behind the masks are, and often scream at the TV.

The show is real "event telly" and I love that it gets everyone talking and guessing.

The 2022 costumes are going to include a traffic cone, a doughnut and a chandelier, so the brilliant wardrobe team have once again excelled themselves.

Last year fans speculated I was the person in the Harlequin outfit, so I wonder if there will be similar guesses this year.

Maybe viewers will think it's me as the traffic cone!

KILLING EVE, BBC One

I'M a big fan and I can't believe this is the fourth and final series.

Jodie Comer and Sandra Oh are both brilliant and their cat-and-mouse game has had me gripped from the very first episode.

The show's writers are no strangers to a cliffhanger – such as when Villanelle left Eve for dead at the end of the second series – so I can't wait to see if they tie everything up neatly or leave fans like me hanging on a knife edge.

Whatever happens, it is sure to be an explosive finale.



**Ant & Dec's
Limitless Win**
ITV



Killing Eve
BBC One



**The Masked
Singer** ITV



Planet Earth III
BBC One



Derry Girls
Channel 4